

6

AWESOME POSTERS

RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

TOM MORELLO

WANTS YOU TO START A REVOLUTION

ALL TIME LOW

vs

BACK TO THE FUTURE

WORLD EXCLUSIVE

"WE NEVER THOUGHT WE'D FEEL THIS WAY AGAIN..."

ASKING ALEXANDRIA

THE PARTY STARTS HERE!

FALL OUT BOY

PETE IS CRAZY IN LOVE!

BULLET BITE BACK!

THE FIRST REVIEW!

DON BROCO

"Am I selfish? Am I capable of love?"

ROB BARES HIS SOUL

ISSUE NO 1579

AUG 1 2015 / £2.20. AUS: \$6.95

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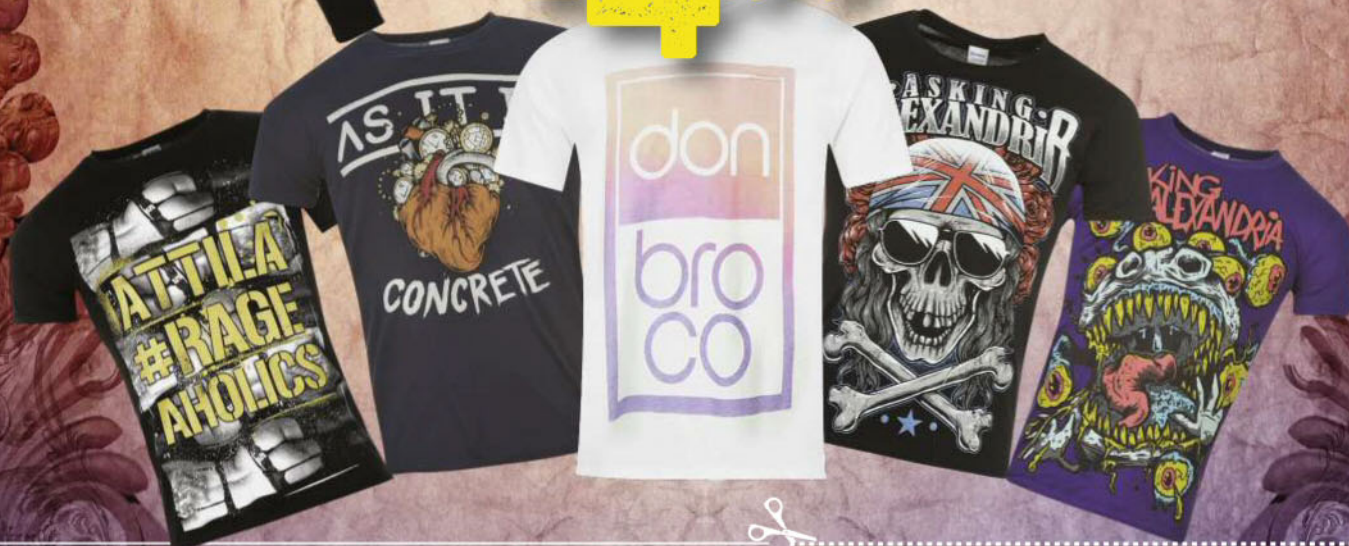


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■ **ISSUE 1579 AUG 1, 2015**



HELLO, READERS. It's our pleasure to bring you the first full-band interview you'll read with Asking Alexandria v2.0 anywhere in the world. That means, the first probing chat with new singer Denis Stoff, more insight into what went wrong with the British rock titans – and why it looks like it's about to go so very, very right. We're excited. You should be too! Not only that, but elsewhere Don Broco cry tears, All Time Low take on Back To The Future and Frank Carter flexes his muscles. It all makes for a combination tastier than canned bread. Enjoy the issue, you lot!

James
Editor

NEWS

ON THE COVER:
All Time

Low and **Sleeping With Sirens** prepare to make chaos in the U.S. (p4). Plus, pictures of the first-ever **Nirvana** gig (p8) and **Fozzy** in *Sharknado 3* (p10).



FEATURES

ON THE COVER: It's a week of introductions, as we greet **Asking Alexandria's** **Denis Stoff** (p16), say hello to a whole new side of **Rob Damiani** and **Don Broco** (p22), and reacquaint ourselves with the angry side of **Frank Carter** (p38). Plus, there's **Tom Morello** (p26), **New Years Day** (p42) and **Neck Deep** (p45), while **rock** goes football (p40)!

POSTERS

ON THE COVER:
Paramore, Slayer,
5 Seconds Of Summer and loads more (p30)!

LIVES

Dave Grohl proves that he can rock even with a busted leg (p46). The talented bastard **Marilyn Manson** and **Smashing Pumpkins** duke it out in Texas (p48). **Nick Oliveri** gets all bluesy in London, and **Blood Youth** and **Trash Boat** bring the pop-punk party to Camden (p49)!

REVIEWS

ON THE COVER:
So, **Bullet For My**

Valentine released one of the heaviest albums of the year (p50), and **Frank Turner** has made one of the most positive (p51). We also take a look at how **Fightstar** made **Charlie Simpson** a rockstar (p53).

GIGS

Misfits bring you the *Jurassic World* experience (p56), while **Mikey Chapman** tells you why Cambridge rocks (p58).

DON BROCO

p22

Rob Damiani was the victim of a terrible mix-up at the B&Q and Boots factories

TOM MORELLO

p26

Tom's bitchy resting face was not to be messed with





THE BIG STORY
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING EVER

ALL TIME LOW + SLEEPING WITH SIRENS = CHAOS!

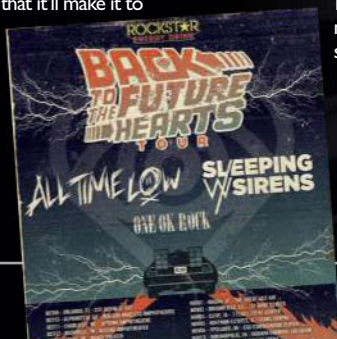
KERRANG! GO INSIDE THE MOST EXPLOSIVE TOUR OF THE YEAR AS WE ASK, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO TITANS COLLIDE? **ALEX GASKARTH** EXPLAINS...



TAKE 28 DATES across 24 states.

Add two of the biggest bands in the scene, throw in a Japanese support band and give it one of the best names for a tour in recent memory. What've you got? The Back To The Future Hearts Tour, featuring All Time Low and Sleeping With Sirens, along with ONE OK ROCK. The tour's set to cross America in October and November – although, really, we're just praying that it'll make it to the UK next year.

Surprisingly, this is the first time that the two titans have headed out together, but with the bands already being best of bros, they can cut the formalities and get straight to the chaos and pranking. All Time Low frontman Alex Gaskarth explains...



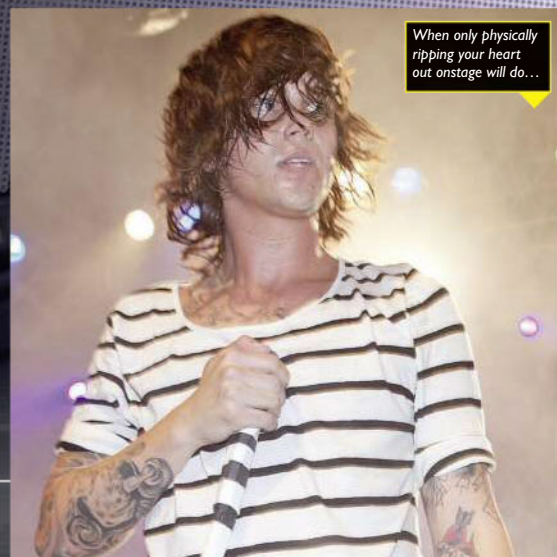
HI, ALEX! HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WANTING TO TOUR WITH SLEEPING WITH SIRENS FOR, THEN?

"Forever! They're a band that we have been friends with for a long time and we just haven't really ever toured together outside of Warped Tour. It's just kind of one of those things. It worked really well when we did it with Piece The Veil and some of the fans have mentioned it to us before about something they want to see..."

DO YOU OFTEN LISTEN TO THE FANS WHEN IT COMES TO TEAMING UP WITH BANDS FOR TOUR?

"Absolutely. I think it's really important to listen to those guys

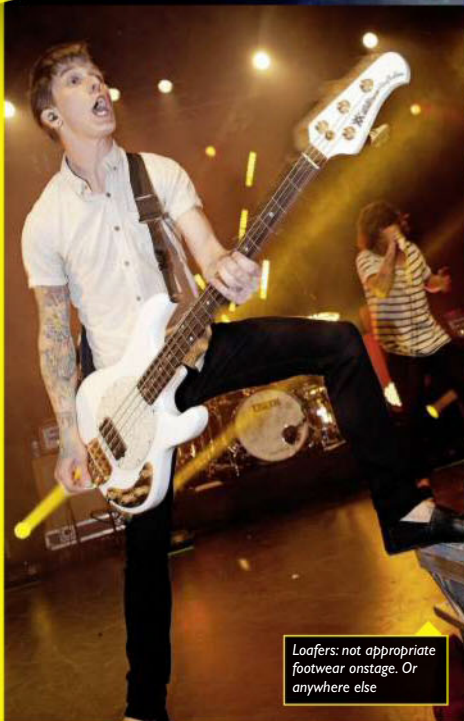
When only physically ripping your heart out onstage will do...



Jack didn't want to admit that his collagen lip implants were hindering his performance...



THE BIG STORY



Loafers: not appropriate footwear onstage. Or anywhere else

and see who they're interested in seeing us play with. At the end of the day, it's them coming to see us!"

SO, ON A SCALE OF ONE TO 10, HOW PLEASED ARE YOU WITH THE NAME OF THIS TOUR?

"Ten! It worked out so well! I mean, we're probably gonna get sued, so the less you guys talk about it, the better, really. We're trying not to draw any attention to the tour name or the artwork (*laughs*). Obviously, it works with the album, but October 21, 2015, is also the date that they travel forward to in the movie, so it has a funny little tie-in. That date will be happening during the tour."

SO, ARE YOU GUYS GOING TO BE DRIVING AROUND IN DELOREANS ONSTAGE, THEN?

"We were talking about it – that would be pretty amazing. We don't want to go too hard on it because, again, lawsuits, but also we didn't want the reference to be lost. There will be some nods, for sure. I just want a pair of the damn trainers... and a hoverboard!"

ARE YOU PLANNING ANY END-OF-TOUR PRANKS FOR THE SWS GUYS?

"Yes! It's going to get pretty fun. These guys are a good time, so I have no doubt that we'll get a little crazy. Retaliation is always a possibility, though. It's a scary prospect, but you can't live



"Hands up if you've nicked the sleeves off my T-shirt?"



The annual All Time Low origami contest was in full swing...

your whole life in fear, you know?! You just have to get on and prank!"

YOU'RE ALSO TAKING JAPANESE BAND ONE OK ROCK OUT ON THE ROAD WITH YOU ON THE TOUR. HOW'D YOU COME ACROSS THOSE GUYS?

"We met them through our producer, John Feldmann. He's produced All Time Low, Sleeping With Sirens and ONE OK ROCK. Those guys are really talented. It's kind of fun and different for us to be able to bring a band from Japan on tour. I think they'll bring something new to the table!"

HAVE YOU BEEN BRUSHING UP ON YOUR JAPANESE, THEN?

"I can speak very, very, very little Japanese. I can basically say 'hello', 'thank you' and I can kind of make it through a food order (*laughs*)!"

WE TAKE IT YOU'RE NOT QUITE READY TO START WRITING SONGS IN JAPANESE, EH?

"No, but I've always wanted to do a version of one of our songs in Japanese, I think that would be really cool. I know I'd have to have some help translating it from someone who really knows the language properly. I would hate to half-ass it and have a rubbish, Google Translate version that doesn't actually mean what it's supposed to mean! You know when sometimes it doesn't come out with a word that has the same meaning in a different language? Then you're that asshole that's singing nonsense about hot-dogs or something!"



See the tour dates at
Kerrang.com



"Why am I wearing a Pizza Express uniform onstage?"

**"WE'RE
PROBABLY
GOING TO GET
SUED FOR THE
TOUR'S NAME!"**

ALEX GASKARTH

THE FEED
THIS WEEK IN **ROCK**

LOOKS LIKE **TEEN SPIRIT!**

GIRL DISCOVERS PHOTOS OF HER DAD PLAYING WITH **KURT COBAIN** AND SHOTS OF **NIRVANA'S** FIRST-EVER SHOW!



YOU KNOW that feeling when you're rummaging about in your dad's old stuff and you find photos of him casually playing with Kurt Cobain? US NEITHER! But that's exactly what happened to 19-year-old Maggie Poukkula, who tweeted these revealing shots last week with the message, "Pictures of my dad and Kurt Cobain playing together back in the day."

Megan explained how her dad,

Tony Poukkula, "went to high school with Kurt and played with him before he got big".

Some of the photos appear to be from Nirvana's show in Raymond, Washington, in March of 1987 – which, if accurate, would make this the band's first-ever gig.

You win the cool dad stakes, Maggie!



See more on
Kerrang.com



Is this Nirvana's first-ever show?



THEY SAID WHAT?



"OUR FINAL TOUR STAGE SHOW HAS BEEN TAKEN TO ANOTHER LEVEL!"

**NIKKI SIXX,
MÖTLEY CRÜE**



Lizzy and Stone Sour guitarist Josh Rand in the studio

LIZZY HALE VS STONE SOUR!

Halestorm frontwoman **Lizzy Hale** is set to guest on **Stone Sour's** Straight Outta Burbank EP, which will see the band cover the likes of **Bad Brains, The Rolling Stones, Slayer, Mötley Crüe** and **Iron Maiden**. The EP's due later this year.

RIP JUSTIN LOWE

The body of **After The Burial** guitarist **Justin Lowe** was discovered last week (July 21). He was 32 years old.

Justin's body was

found by a hiker underneath the Arcola High Bridge near to the guitarist's home in the band's native Minnesota. His car was discovered at the scene. Local police describe his injuries as being "consistent with a fall". Last month, Justin had announced his


THEY SAID WHAT?

"WE HAVE THE NUMBER ONE DVD IN THE U.S. AND UK! THANK YOU!"

ANDY BIRSACK, BLACK VEIL BRIDES

BAND KICK OUT FAN WHO HIT WOMAN

3 Doors Down frontman **Brad Arnold** had a gig-goer removed from their Colorado show last week after witnessing the male fan hit a female in the crowd. A video of the incident surfaced on YouTube, showing the singer shouting, "Hey, homie! You don't hit a woman. You just pushed a woman out of the way to get into a fight, you dick!" before telling security to "get him the hell out of here" with a parting gesture of, "Fuck you, man, you don't hit a woman!"



Brad Arnold: the hero Colorado deserves

PIERCE THE PINK VINYL!

Looks like **Vic Fuentes** and **Pierce The Veil** are going to be pink for a day, having joined the likes of **Clutch** and **Primus** in rereleasing one of their albums on limited-edition pink vinyl – and, even better, it's all for a good cause.

The band's 2012 album, *Collide With The Sky*, will be reissued on September 29 for breast cancer charity, Gilda's Club NYC.

The records are available to preorder now via 10bands1cause.com. Other pressings in the series will include Clutch's *La Curandera*, Primus' *Frizzle Fry* and Between The Buried And Me's *Come Euphonia*.

departure from the band he helped form in 2004 via a lengthy, confusing Facebook post alleging an elaborate conspiracy against him. Justin was later reported missing on July 18.

Kerrang's thoughts go out to Justin's family and friends at this time.



NO MASTODON FOR R&L!

Mastodon have cancelled 17 upcoming dates across Canada, Russia and Europe – including the band's appearance at Reading & Leeds festival in August. The band said it was due to a "personal family matter". See Kerrang.com for updates.

GLAMOUR OF THE KILL CALL IT QUILTS

Glamour Of The Kill have announced their split after over 10 years together. In a joint statement – which you can read on Kerrang.com now – the band announced that "it has come to a point where we need to take a step back from this and focus on other careers".

A7X ANNOUNCE SHOCK DEPARTURE

ARIN ILEJAY EXITS AS AVENGED "MOVE IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION"

Avenged Sevenfold have announced the surprise departure of drummer **Arin Ilejay**.

A statement released last week (July 23) announced the shock news, with the Orange County metallers believed to be in the midst of writing their follow-up to 2013's *Hail To The King*.

Arin had been drumming for the band – comprising vocalist M. Shadows, guitarists Synyster Gates and Zacky Vengeance and bassist Johnny Christ – since 2011.

A brief statement signed by the four remaining members of the band thanked the stickman for being "nothing but a positive energy and monster drummer for us over the past four years", as well as "helping us to move forward through some very dark times".

"Creatively, though, we felt we needed to move in a different direction," it continued. "While we can't say more at this time, we are excited for the future and looking forward to sharing our plans soon with the greatest fans in the world."

Arin replaced former **Dream**

Theater drummer **Mike Portnoy**, who had temporarily stepped in following the death of Jimmy 'The Rev' Sullivan in December 2009.

Arin would eventually be welcomed to the band as an official member in 2013, following two years as a session and touring musician. He would help record the UK Number One *Hail To The King*, telling *Kerrang!*, "I wanted to contribute, but I knew the guys had a particular vision. The style of drumming and music was totally new to me. So, I just listened, paid attention and tried to deliver."

Having headlined *Download* with the band in 2014, Arin's final live performance came at *Wisconsin, USA's Rock Fest 2015*, just four days before his exit. The band have no future live dates currently scheduled.

At the time of going to press, no further information had been revealed about Arin's potential replacement, although, on past evidence, it is expected that any solution will, for now at least, only be temporary. *Kerrang.com* will bring you more as it is revealed, and we wish Arin all the best.



Arin Ilejay (second from right): played his last shot in *Avenged*

SLAVES (U.S.) BOOTED OFF WARPED TOUR

Slaves (U.S.) have been kicked off the U.S. Warped Tour. While it's still unclear exactly why the band have been forced to leave, **Slaves (U.S.)** released a statement addressing rumours of substance abuse and sexual harassment by the band's frontman **Johnny Craig**. "There were not drugs involved nor was anyone in our band looking to buy or sell drugs," the band wrote. "There was no rape or any forceful sexual harassment, no woman was ever touched or even spoken to, just felt uncomfortable by our behaviour." See Kerrang.com for updates on the story.



ARCANE ROOTS UNVEIL NEW EP

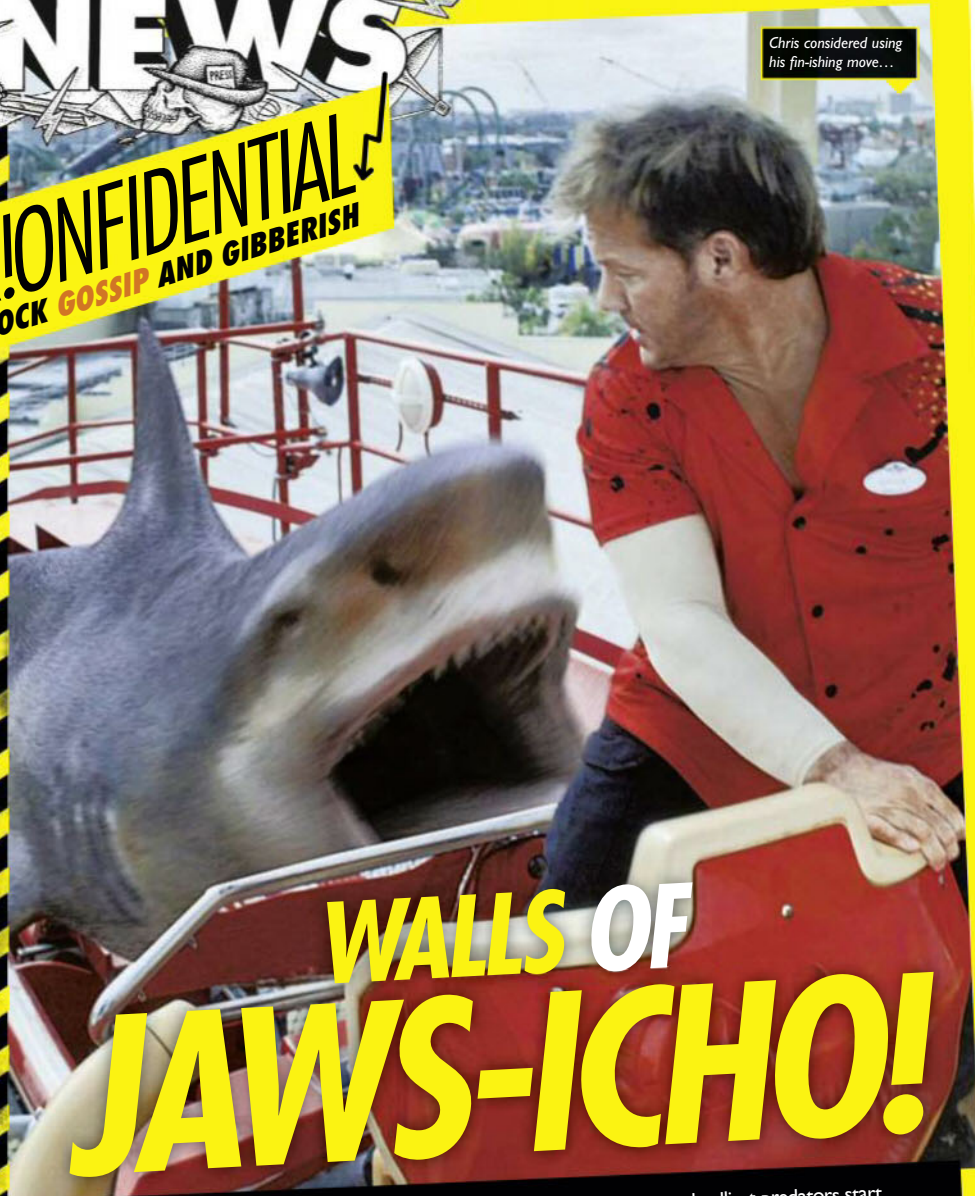
Alt-rock's **Arcane Roots** have unveiled the details of their upcoming EP, *Heaven & Earth*. Due for release on October 16, frontman **Andrew Groves** tells *K!* that "this EP feels like the beginning, it feels like everything we have wanted to make our entire lives". He describes the opening track (and the band's new single), *If Nothing Breaks, Nothing Moves*, as essentially an open letter to the band's fans. "Each night I'm promising them that I might be sick, angry or tired, but I will give it my all each and every night! If I can't put my hand on my heart and say that I've given 100 per cent, then I have no right to go gently." Not exactly half-arsing it, then, eh, lads?


THEY SAID WHAT?

"WE'RE PLAYING OUR NEW RECORD TO OUR TEAM!"

JENNA McDUGALL, TONIGHT ALIVE

Chris considered using his fin-ishing move...



WALLS OF JAWS-ICHO!



Holy crap! **Fozzy** frontman and WWE legend **Chris Jericho**'s about to be eaten by a shark... ON A ROLLERCOASTER! Argh! But don't worry, it's not one of his

holiday snaps, it's a still from upcoming Syfy network film, *Sharknado 3: Oh Hell No!*.

The film sees Chris play a ride attendant at Universal Studios when, suddenly, the heavens open and the sea's

deadliest predators start flopping out of the sky. The singer has been seen shooting scenes alongside the franchise's leading woman, **Tara Reid**. We can't wait to get our teeth into this one...

BULLET IN A BELT!

Metalhead **Kevin Young** attracted some unwanted attention in Boston when concerned bus passengers called the police about him wearing a bullet belt. Yep, officers apprehended the rocker, recovering the belt which they described as "containing 69 replica bullets". In the immortal words of *The Simpsons*' Police Chief Wiggum, "Nice work, boys."



"I said, 'This is Amnesia,' not, 'This is the Anthem'..."

5 SECONDS OF CHARLOTTE!



5 Seconds Of Summer had a helping hand at their show in Irvine, California, when they were joined by **Good Charlotte**'s **Joel** and **Benji Madden**. The pair jumped onstage to play GC hit *Girls & Boys*. Joel and Benji reportedly looked so perfect standing there...

SPOTTED

Yes! That really is **Andrew W.K.** with a guitar made out of pizza having a pizza party ('til you puke) with the kids of cable channel Disney XD. Elsewhere, **Jakobe Moreno**, son of **Deftones** frontman **Chino Moreno**, played his first show with his amazingly-named skate punk band, **Death Rogan Enter Shikari** bassist **Chris Batten** tied the knot with girlfriend Cecily Watret. **Yashin's Harry Radford** was spotted trying



out vaping in Spitalfields Market, London, and **Pierce The Veil** were clocked getting an Uber taxi from their tour bus to the stage on *Warped Tour*. You heroically lazy men!

PANDORA BY RAY ZELL Rayzell.com



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ROCK CHART

OOH! NEW ENTRIES FROM **TWIN ATLANTIC** AND **YOUNG GUNS** ARE SHAKING THINGS UP. CAN **NECK DEEP** HOLD ON TO THE TOP SPOT? UNTIL NEXT TIME...

	WEEKS ON CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
1	8	1	NECK DEEP	Can't Kick Up The Roots	HOPELESS RECORDS
2	6	1	MUSE	Mercy	WARNER
3	8	2	MALLORY KNOX	Heart & Desire	SONY
4	10	2	ROYAL BLOOD	Little Monster	IMPERIAL GALACTIC
5	4	5	SLIPKNOT	Killpop	ROADRUNNER RECORDS
6	3	6	PARKWAY DRIVE	Vice Grip	EPIGRAPH RECORDS
7	2	7	BFMV	You Want A Battle? (Here's A War)	RCA RECORDS
8	9	3	DON BROCO	Automatic	SONY
9	9	2	ENTER SHIKARI	Torn Apart	ENTER SHIKARI
10	12	1	FALL OUT BOY	Uma Thurman	ISLAND RECORDS
11	1	11	TWIN ATLANTIC	Fall Into The Party	RED BULL RECORDS
12	4	12	WE CAME AS ROMANS	Regenerate	SPINEFARM RECORDS
13	8	3	WE ARE THE OCEAN	Holy Fire	BMG RIGHTS MANAGEMENT
14	1	14	YOUNG GUNS	Rising Up	VIRGIN EMI RECORDS
15	10	5	SLEEPING WITH SIRENS	The Strays	EPIGRAPH RECORDS
16	3	16	ONLY RIVALS	Sing	SO RECORDINGS
17	11	8	AS IT IS	Cheap Shots & Setbacks	FEARLESS RECORDS
18	1	18	VUKOVI	Boy George	VUKOVI
19	6	18	FOREVER NEVER	Never Giving Up	FOREVER NEVER
20	9	5	YOUNG GUNS	Daylight	VIRGIN EMI RECORDS

PETE WENTZ, FALL OUT BOY



UMA THURMAN IS THE LATEST FOB SONG TO REFERENCE AN ACTRESS – HOW COME?

"People give me shit about it all the time! Uma Thurman, Winona Ryder and Juliette Lewis... there's just this hyper-teenage crush, silver-screen era thing for me."

SO, IT'S WRITTEN FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

"I think the idea behind Uma Thurman's verse is the perspective of the guy, me, and then the

chorus is looking at her in a Kill Bill-Tarantino type of way, like there's this girl who's always just beyond your reach."

TELL US A SECRET ABOUT THE SONG!

"We used a sample that sounded really Quentin Tarantino-y, so when we played it for everybody, they were all like, 'Oh my god! It's Tarantino!' But it's actually a sample from the TV show The Munsters!"

ROSS McNAE, TWIN ATLANTIC



DID THIS FEEL SPECIAL TO YOU IN THE STUDIO?

"Some songs take a lot of work, but this flowed without a struggle."

HOW DID THE LIVE VIDEO COME ABOUT?

"It seemed like the only way to represent the song. We loved the release that it gave."

ARE YOU PLEASED WITH THE REACTION AS A WHOLE?

"It's humbling. Seeing how much the album means to some people, or how much happiness it gives to others, is really validating. We're just ready to make more music now!"

SEE/HEAR
THE OFFICIAL
KERRANG!
ROCK CHART!



The Official Kerrang! Rock Chart is made up of airplay across Kerrang! Radio, Kerrang! TV and specialist rock stations. The show airs on KI Radio every Saturday at 12:30pm with Dan Hudson, and also on KI TV Thursdays at 4pm. Tune in and listen up!



SLAYER

Special guest:

ANTHRAX

TRUANT

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Sat. 21. // Newport Centre

Sun. 22. // Plymouth Pavilions

Tue. 24. // Manchester O2 Apollo

Wed. 25. // Glasgow O2 Academy

Fri. 27. // Birmingham O2 Academy

Sat. 28. // Leeds O2 Academy

Mon. 30. // Brixton O2 Academy

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NEWS

FRESH BLOOD

ROCK'S BREAKING BANDS

KNUCKLE PUCK

LIKE YOUR POP-PUNK MATURE? THEN COME TAKE A SEAT...



OH, SORRY, GUYS, WE WERE JUST LOOKING FOR THE TOILET...

Don't worry, Chicago's Knuckle Puck are too happy to be annoyed at you for intruding on their bus. That's because they finally have a debut album – just four years after playing their first show in July 2011. It might look as though they couldn't be arsed to get out of bed and make it, but due to work and school commitments it was easier for them to make EPs.

WHERE CAN WE HEAR THESE NEW TUNES?

Kerrang.com where you can download Disdain, the first single from Copacetic. It's about the "struggles of a long-distance relationship and disdain one can develop for said distance". Which, in case you couldn't guess, is inspired by the fivesome's relentless touring schedule – which currently finds them 35 dates deep into the Warped Tour. After a quick trip home to wash their undercrackers, they'll be bringing their aggressive yet mature pop-punk to the UK in September.

MATURE? LIKE CHEDDAR?

Kinda, except their music is by no means cheesy. "We try to be very real," explains vocalist Joe. "You can't just go around bashing people you feel may have wronged you via lyrics and song. You have to remove yourself from the situation, turn it into lyrics and say, 'Hey, you know what? You fucked me over, but I wasn't an angel, either!' We are by no means perfect human beings."

FAIR. SO, WHAT'S THE TITLE ABOUT, THEN?

For those with a dictionary allergy, Copacetic means 'in excellent order'. "It's the idea that even though some things may feel like the end of the world, at the end of the day, you're still breathing and you have a heart beating in your chest," says the vocalist. "If you wake up every morning and everything is okay, it leaves the day open to make improvements on the things you might not be happy with. That's something I really wish I'd found as a kid."

WHY DID HE WISH HE FOUND IT AS A KID?

Because by the time Joe was 18, him and his family had moved in and out of 19 different houses. "I felt the rug was constantly being ripped out from underneath me," he remembers. "When you're young, you think that adults have it figured out, but I now realise that no-one has any idea what they're doing on this planet. Everyone is just trying to get by, so we do our best to spread a positive influence through our music." So, go do your business, grab a seat and prepare to drink a pint of PMA. Oh, and don't forget to wash your hands.

L – R (clockwise from bottom): Joe Taylor (vocals), John Siorek (drums), Ryan Rumchaks (bass), Kevin Maida (guitar) and Nick Casasanto (guitar)

"WE ARE BY NO MEANS PERFECT HUMAN BEINGS"

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

FOR FANS OF:

blink-182, Taking Back Sunday, The Story So Far.

HEAR: Disdain, which you can download free at Kerrang.com!

CHECK OUT:

Their strange video for No Good on YouTube.

MORE INFO:

Facebook.com/KnucklePuckIL

DON'T MISS:

Knuckle Puck and more killer new bands on Alex Baker's Fresh Blood show on Wednesdays at 10pm on Kerrang! Radio.



To hear them, get yourself over to **Kerrang.com**





LOVE AT FIRST BITE

"My mum made me this awesome birthday cake of @fvkillers' fangs and got me @ashes_to_angels tickets!" says @fang_ballet. We hope you said fangs to your mum for that. #NewGrave



THE FINER INKS

"Here's my State Champs tattoo!" says @_bxston. Finally, an umbrella you can't leave on the bus. Genius.



FUTURE STAR

We thought we'd stumbled across an ultra-rare All Time Low x Taylor Swift collab, but we've since found out it's @rhi_atl "onstage with @AlexAllTimeLow at Soundwave"! You had us fooled. No bad blood, though...



UP ALL NIGHT TO GET TUCKY

This is @Julzerr's "favourite" pic with a rockstar, "and it happens to be with Matt". Well, now you've got a chance to apologise to those faces on his arm you made scream when you spilled your drink on Matt's top, as you're heading to a show and receiving a guitar lesson from the man himself! *air guitars and knocks computer over*

WINNER!



HANGIN' WITH THE QUEEN

"So, me and some friends ran into Brian May outside the Houses Of Parliament last week!" says @Stxtion2stxtion. Clearly Brian didn't get the 'school uniform' fancy dress memo. Silly sausage. We hope you didn't badger him too much.



JAWS ON THE FLOOR

@NxahMcAllister tells us this is "when @OnlyJaking and I bumped into Josh at Isle Of Wight. So Awesome!" Not gonna lie, we thought it was Josh's new indie band's press shot, and we spent ages searching the web to hear new music.

NEXT WEEK

WIN!

VIP TICKETS TO **HEVY FEST** AND HANGTIME WITH COHEED!

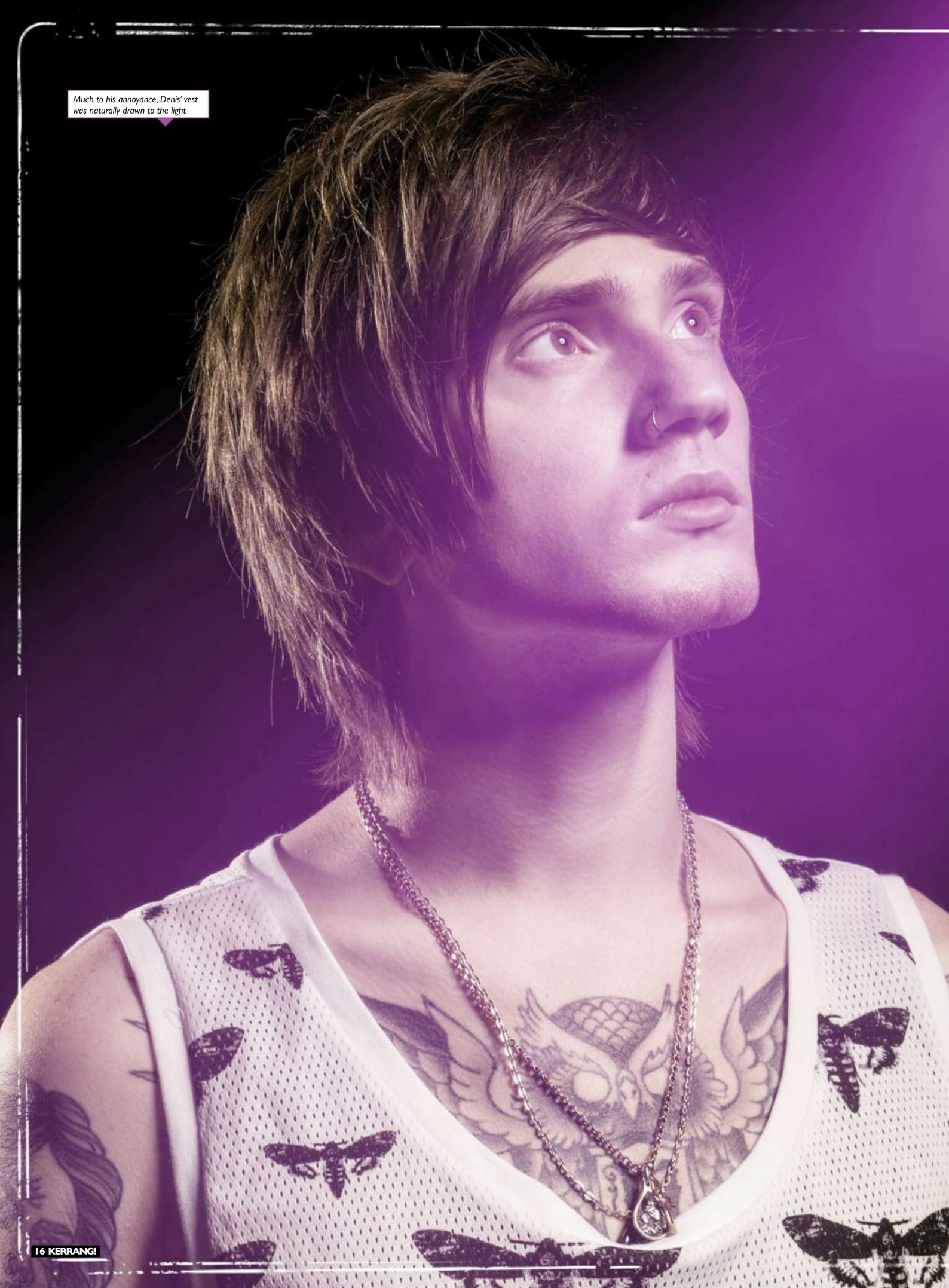
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DAVYD WHAT'S THAT-FACE?

Here's @tablets1997 the tiger with Bury Tomorrow's Davyd, who clearly has an irrational fear of the big cats. It's all right, mate, it's just a guy in a onesie. Come back!!

Much to his annoyance, Denis' vest was naturally drawn to the light



COVER STORY

THE CHOSEN ONE

WORDS: SAM COARE
PHOTOS: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

WHEN DIVORCE SPLIT **ASKING ALEXANDRIA**'S FAMILY, IT COULD WELL HAVE BEEN THE END. IN A WORLD-EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW, KERRANG! MEETS **DENIS STOFF**: THE MAN CHARGED WITH REUNITING THEM IN SEARCH OF THE PROMISED LAND...

With the sun setting on Texas' South By So What?! Festival 2012, a young man takes up position in front of the Plano Centre's main stage. His work for the day is done – a short set in the heat of the mid-March afternoon fronting the band, Make Me Famous, he'd formed three years prior – and having witnessed a billing including Motionless In White, Sleeping With Sirens, We Are The In Crowd and more follow throughout the day, now it's time to kick back, sneak a beer and watch the headliners bring the one-day event to a close.

Asking Alexandria had first grabbed his attention in September 2009, with the release of their debut album, *Stand Up And Scream*. He "got it, but, honestly, I wasn't that much into it". Still, there was something about the record that "made me come back again and again and again" until,

finally, it clicked. "I don't even know what it was," he says. "They just sounded fresh. It was exactly what I loved about music. The *energy*... Asking Alexandria and that album had a lot of it."


There would be nothing so slow-burn about the Asking Alexandria live show that night, however. "They were spectacular," the young man later recalled. "It was a great show. You could tell that they were the headliners for a reason. Danny [Worsnop, then-AA vocalist] was fucking wasted. Everyone could tell. I reckon he almost fell off the stage that night. But they had it all that night."

With Asking's traditional set-closer, *The Final Episode*, ringing out, the young vocalist turns to return to his scrappy tour bus and his own fledgling rock'n'roll journey, leaving thousands of fans to their daydreams of swapping places with a band who a year prior had cracked the U.S. Top 10 with second album *Reckless And Relentless*.

"Not even for a second did I dream of what fronting that band would be like," he smiles today, thinking back. "Cause, y'know, being the new singer of Asking Alexandria..."

He pauses as he reaches for the right words. "That just kind of sounds... '*unrealistic*', right?"

Three years on, Denis Stoff laughs at the memory. 'Unrealistic' it may have seemed to one day front the band he stood admiring that day in Texas, but impossible it's proved not to be. Two months have passed since the now-23-year-old's unveiling as Asking Alexandria's new leader. His debut shows are under his belt. A new single boasting his vocal debut for the band – *I Won't Give In* – has been released. Legendary festivals such as *Rock am Ring* have been played. An entire *Warped Tour* run has nearly been conquered. Today, he welcomes *Kerrang!* – at his



"Come on, guys, time to leave the bar and get back on the bus. Guys...?"

BEN BRUCE ON...
THE NEW ALBUM'S GUEST VOCALS!

"The cool thing about recording while we're on Warped is we've been able to call on friends for our gang vocals. This album has so many different artists on it – Black Veil Brides, Attila, Blessthefall... It's insane. We'd normally hire a choir for those parts, but we've got the most metal of choirs here with us!"

JAMES CASSELLS ON...
PROVING THE DOUBTERS WRONG

"There were a lot of people hoping that we were going to fuck this up, and we've proved them all wrong. We've been feeling everyone's eyes on us, and I'm gonna be the first one giving any doubters the middle finger when we're kicking ass with this new record. We've a lot pent up that will come out in the music. Shit went down, and it's made for a fantastic record."

DENIS STOFF ON...
THOSE CANCELLED UK SHOWS

"I've been so desperate to get started. But because of visas, I couldn't even fly to the studio to record the album with the guys. I was desperate for the UK shows to happen; to finally meet the guys in person, stop all these emails, and play these shows for everyone. I was really bummed out when it got cancelled. It was such a frustrating time."

CAM LIDDELL ON...

LIFE AFTER DANNY WORSNOP

"I was honestly shitting it when Danny left. I thought, 'This can't be it, we've still got so much more to do.' It wasn't like we kicked Danny out. He wanted to go a different direction, and so did we, and it completely worked out for both parties. I think we're all much happier doing different things."

and his band's behest – for his first cover feature interview and photoshoot. It's more than many achieve in an entire career, let alone 60 days.

"It's been crazy," Denis says. "One day I'm sorting visas for my former band, Down And Dirty [formed in the wake of Denis' exit from Make Me Famous in late 2012], I'm about to fly out to America to finish our new album, and the next I get an email saying, 'Do you want to try out for Asking Alexandria?' Then a couple of days later, I'm being asked to try writing for them. It all happened so quick..."

That it did. And that it needed to. Danny Worsnop's abrupt exit from the band he helped form with guitarists Ben Bruce and Cam Liddell, bassist Sam Bettley and drummer James Cassells left the future of Asking Alexandria in the balance. Sure, rock's annals are littered with stories of bands recovering – thriving, even – from the exit of their frontman. But for each success story lay the carcasses of many thousands more, such a pivotal change amounting to a bullet to the head more than a kick up the arse.

Yet Denis' arrival wouldn't only be Asking

Alexandria's resuscitating lifeline, but their salvation, too. Because Asking, its members reveal, were struggling long before they found themselves a man down. And the relief of finally getting back to being a band floods out of them like beer from the pumps at today's bar in Hartford, Connecticut.

"Honestly, I don't think I've been this happy in the past three years," Ben sighs with relief. "I feel like a teenager again; alive and excited and passionate."

"The past months have really taught us a lot, and we're closer and better off for it," adds Sam. "Denis has breathed a new life into us all, and made us feel like we did a couple of years ago. We haven't felt that kind of excitement, that buzz, for a while."

Cam spells out that "we really needed a change. We had one person taking us all in a direction we didn't want to go. To have everyone on the same page again is a feeling I thought we might never have again." James simply describes Denis as being "like a shot of adrenalin every day".

Denis – himself for so long an outside observer – points to an Asking show seven months ago in Moscow, where Down And Dirty opened. "You could tell they were a band that weren't having fun," he says. "It wasn't the same band I saw in Texas, and it was very sad to see. The spark had gone."

Little did he know that he would be the man to give them it back.

Denis Alexandrovich Shaforostov was born on May 4, 1992, on the outskirts of the city of Donetsk in Eastern Ukraine. The family's second child – eight years his sister's junior – Denis' mother, Natalie, was a doctor; dad Alexander a businessman. His childhood, he laughs, wasn't particularly exciting. Donetsk is a grey, tough, "very industrial" city close to Ukraine's Russian border; founded by Welsh settlers in the 19th century, it remains home to a massive coal mining workforce, and has recently been the focus of headlines surrounding the political unrest that has gripped Ukraine for the past year. Just days after meeting Denis, news will break reporting four deaths as a result of bombing across the city.

"There was nothing much to do there, growing up," Denis says. "But I wasn't the sort of kid who was always sitting in his room, waiting for something to happen. I was making things happen for myself. I was energetic. I was doing crazy things... You have to do something to entertain yourself, I guess."

He enjoyed school – "I had a lot of friends. It was a good time for me. I wouldn't say I was killing it at maths or anything, but I consider myself a pretty smart person" – and played football. "I was alright..." he laughs, modestly. "I wasn't, like, really good, but I had my fun." He was always popular with the girls, too. "I dated a couple of girls while I was growing up but it didn't really work for a long time," he explains. "I was just too young for that."

Instead, music would become his true love.

"My dad was always listening to so much music," Denis remembers. He reels off the names that made an impression on him early: Queen, Judas Priest, Iron Maiden, Guns N' Roses... Deep Purple gave him his first experience of a live rock concert, aged 12, with his dad – a guitar player himself – in tow. "I was

fully influenced by him," Denis says. "He wanted to show me real music by a real band."

By then, piano lessons had already been started and swiftly abandoned, before the guitar was picked up, aged 10.

"I didn't really like it," he admits, sheepishly. "I was kind of forced to start playing, but when I finished guitar school five years later, I thought it was awesome."

Steve Vai, Joe Satriani and former Marilyn Manson axeman John 5 were early influences on the young six-stringer. And with the likes of The Prodigy, Parkway Drive

and Slipknot beginning to make an impression on him, Denis set about forming his first band.

"The music scene in Donetsk is pretty dead," he sighs. "There were a lot of local bands, but none that really made it out of the local status. My first band had such a shit name – Dense Red Drops. We were just a metalcore band, and played maybe 15 shows. There was this one song we'd play – a cover of Hey John, What's Your Name Again? by The Devil Wears Prada – that had clean vocals. None of our other songs had clean singing, but every night, that song was my time to say, 'Hell yeah, I get to sing, too!'"

"I don't know what it was I liked about singing," Denis thinks. "You can express everything that is in your head, everything that's on your mind. Everything you had to say, you can just pull it out in a song. It's something I'll never be able to explain..."

That, for Denis Stoff, is something of a rarity.

Fluent in three languages, he's engaging to chat with, the gaps in his vocabulary more limiting than his understanding of English. He's friendly, rising to questions head on with a cold-sounding edge that could be mistaken for bullish aloofness if not for the regular bouts of laughter ("You listen to him talk to his family on the phone, and you can only pick out your name from what he's saying," Cam jokes. "James is always like, 'Are you talking shit about me?!'").

"He's a really sweet dude," James begins. "He can have his quiet moments but he's not afraid to speak his mind and say, 'Nope, this is how it is.'"

It's a confidence that's not gone unnoticed by his new bandmates.

"I SAW ASKING LAST YEAR, AND THEY WEREN'T THE SAME BAND. THE SPARK HAD GONE. IT WAS VERY SAD"

• DENIS STOFF •

SAM BETTLEY ON...

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FANS' SUPPORT

"We can't thank everyone enough for the support we've had. To have people stick through us despite everything that's happened... We've felt stronger than ever because of them. It just goes to show that this is much bigger than one person. Whatever comes next is for the fans. We owe them. We owe them everything."

KNOWING DENIS

YOU'VE HEARD HIS BANDMATES TALK ABOUT HIM, BUT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT DENIS, YOU'VE GOT TO ASK THE MAN HIMSELF...

- 1 "I'm moving to the U.S. to be with the band. I'm not sure where I want to move just yet, though. I'm probably gonna give it a try in New Jersey and Texas, 'cause that's where my boys live!"
- 2 "I'm trying to continue studying German, as I used to study it back in school, but I don't really have time to keep working on that at the moment. I'm definitely going to give multiple languages a try - live and always learn."
- 3 "I don't remember getting a lot of my tattoos. For some reason I suffer every time I get blackout wasted... Good thing I've been lucky and had proper artists around me!"
- 4 "I'm the chilliest person ever so if I'm still not friends with you, you've either never met me or you're definitely doing something wrong (laughs)!"
- 5 "I'm not actually a real person. I'm just an Asking Alexandria test tube experiment."

"That totally shocked me," Ben explains. "We've been around a few years now, and he's been a fan of the band for a while, so I maybe thought he might be quite timid when he first came in, but that's just not the case. He walked in with his middle finger up and he gives us as much shit as we give him for being the 'new guy'. That level of confidence, it was kind of inspiring. I wouldn't be able to do it."

"Before our first show together, in the Czech Republic, we were all really nervous," Ben adds. "We're all thinking, 'Oh god, what's going to happen? Are people gonna like it? Are they gonna boo us?' And Denis was just like, 'Why would I be nervous? I'm in an amazing band, and I'm going to do an amazing job for us.' He was so blasé about it."

"I would say that I'm a pretty confident person, yes," Denis asserts, his voice taking a momentarily bristling tone, as if the notion he was anything but was downright offensive. "I'm just trying to take things easy, not overthink it."

That almost impossible coolness shines through Denis' story at every turn; even when his world was seemingly slipping out of focus. Take, for example, his acrimonious departure from Make Me Famous, which left his bandmates berating Denis in a public blog ("[This was] something that we all loved... but was ultimately ruined by one person," they wrote).

"The saddest and the happiest I've ever been was on the same day - when I quit Make Me Famous to pursue my career in something new," he reasons. "It was really hard to realise that it was over, but at the same time it felt so damn right. I just had this gut feeling. I knew this path held something huge for me. And I was 100 per cent right."

"This situation would have been so much more difficult if Denis wasn't that kind of person," Ben reasons. "How the hell can you join Asking fucking Alexandria and not have confidence? We're renowned for being a loud, obnoxious band, and Danny had a big personality, so we needed to find someone that had an even bigger personality, an even better personality. And we did."

Of course, joining Asking Alexandria isn't only about holding your own on the stage. And perhaps the hardest hurdle for Asking Alexandria to clear wasn't with instruments in hand, facing thousands of people under the glare of the stage lights, but instead a bottle, facing only each other in a dimly lit tour bus.

"I had my concerns about joining the band," Denis reveals. "I thought it might be hard when we got together, that it might take a while to bond."

"I think we were all expecting it to be a bit awkward," Ben admits. "We didn't really know Denis at all. We'd only crossed paths once or twice in our lives, so I thought there might be a bit of work to be done to forge our relationship. But the morning we met him, we didn't even shake hands; we just

gave him a huge hug, handed him a beer and became best friends really quickly. It was like we'd known each other for years. After the difficulties with Danny, not really having a frontman or a friend there, when Denis came along with his arms wide open, it was a huge relief."

"As a band, we're a very tight-knit group," James explains. "We're all best friends, when we're on tour we like to just hang out together, and on a personal level we keep ourselves to ourselves. But we didn't want to show that to Denis, so we all went out of our way - as a group and individually - to get to know him."

Sam nods in agreement. "We all wanted to get to know him personally, not just as a group. We've had some great parties, but also we made sure to spend a bit of time with him one on one."

That extension of support has run both ways in these first months, too.

"My best friend died a couple of weeks ago," Ben begins, referring to his former guitar tech, Chris Holley, who passed away on June 14. "I spent last night in tears, and even though Denis was knackered and wanted to go to bed, he didn't leave my side. He hugged me, comforted me, helped me out."

"That's the kind of guy Denis is," he finishes. "He's all in for this band. He's part of our family."

And yet, while his bandmates become acquainted with their new brother, the rest of us have a while to wait before we really get to know Denis Stoff. Warped Tour's conclusion in the U.S. next week will allow the band time to finish their new record, for which Denis has been recording vocals while on the road (and suffering from laryngitis, too), before the UK beckons for our own Warped one-dayer and a short headline run.

Denis is guarded when it comes to discussing what it is he's bringing, lyrically, to the otherwise completed record. "I always write about what I have on my mind, what I've been through in my life" is as vague an explanation as possible, yet the most specific Denis will offer before apologising: "I'm

sorry, I just don't have the right words in English [to explain]. I'd like everyone to find something for themselves [on the record]."

"What I want more than anything, though, is to repay the fans' loyalty," he adds, after a pause. "I've had so much loyalty come from the Asking Alexandria fans, and I can't wait to give it back. I was worried about how people would take to me. I thought it was going to split in two camps: Team Danny and Team Denis. But I've been blown away. It blows my mind to think how people can be so loyal to this band. I'm just here to do my thing, and hopefully I can be loved for that."

"The record is turning into a different beast now Denis is able to fully get involved with it," Ben reveals. The guitarist

points to one song - a track that James lets slip will be released prior to the band's October shows - as evidence of how Denis is taking the band forward. "Right now, the working title for it is Cashing In," Ben says. "When I wrote the lyrics originally, it was all about Danny. It was very spiteful. But [since Denis started on it], it's evolved into being a song about us moving to the next stage in our lives and going, 'Nothing's going to hold us back.' That anger at what we've been through is a large aspect of the record, but we now have an excitement and a happiness that's also coming out in the lyrics."

"I'm beyond excited for what's to come," the guitarist adds. "Six months ago, Danny quit on us and I was thinking, 'Is this the end of everything?' But now... It's an indescribable feeling. We've had so many people on Warped say to us, 'I can't believe how good you are with Denis.' We've really lucked out, and he's risen to the challenge of leading us."

"Y'know," Denis thinks, one last time. "This was an opportunity I was never expecting, but I was kind of always ready for it. There's nothing extra-special about me. I'm just a guy who's totally, completely in love with music, and the only thing that's on my mind right now is improving this band every single day."

"I'm absolutely ready for what's about to come. I'm ready to go bigger. I'm ready for everything."



Tune into **Kerrang! Radio** this week as Asking Alexandria take over control of the station! For more info, see **Kerrang.com**



Want to see Asking Alexandria go quiet? Ask them who's picking up the bar tab



AA

**"THE FANS HAVE
BLOWN ME
AWAY.
I CAN'T WAIT
TO REPAY THEIR
LOYALTY TO US"**

● DENIS STOFF ●

Denis got to work on perfecting his most important role in AA: carrying Ben home at the end of the night

INTERVIEW *Tears* OF A CLOWN

WITH THEIR SUMMER ANTHEMS AND GOOFY DANCE MOVES, YOU MIGHT THINK YOU'VE GOT **DON BROCO** SUSSED. BUT WITH NEW ALBUM **AUTOMATIC** TACKLING LOVE, LOSS AND FEAR, YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE **ROB DAMIANI** LIKE NEVER BEFORE...

WORDS: JENNYFER J. WALKER PHOTOS: PAUL HARRIES MAKE-UP: LYDIA WARHURST/MAC COSMETICS

Rob Damiani is not the man you may think he is.

Sure, over the years, the frontman has partaken in all manner of silliness within the pages of Kerrang!. He's tested out the vomit-inducing Insanity Workout. He's dressed as the Karate Kid. He's even burst out of the stomach of his bandmate as a, er, chestbuster from the Alien movies. He's led live shows that see the Bedford quartet perform their signature dance routine 'The Walk' mid-song, and the pit descend into press-up competitions and even, on occasion, badminton matches.

One look at the Miami Vice-style cover for Don Broco's new album, *Automatic* – which is so '80s you can smell the Old Spice – and it seems like business as usual (read: 'fun'), then.

Dig a little deeper, though, and you'll find that things have changed for Rob and Don Broco since they put out their 2012 debut, *Priorities*.

"On *Priorities* we were still finding our feet," explains Rob today, not wearing anything from a fancy dress shop – just a plain white T-shirt and black jeans. "We didn't feel we were pushing ourselves as a band and we were definitely writing music within our comfort zone."

So, when it came to writing *Automatic*, they got serious and took their time, working through over 100 song ideas, discussing what they did and didn't like about each one. And all for one reason. "We wanted to write better songs," states the frontman. "We wanted to write a classic album that people will listen to in 50 years down the line."

Think you had Don Broco pegged? Think again...

In many ways, the writing of *Automatic* was much like you'd expect from four 20-something lads. Most of it was spent crammed into either bassist Tom Doyle's bedroom or the living room that Rob and drummer Matt Donnelly share. When

cabin fever gripped in the spring of last year, the quartet, like many Brits, swapped Southern England for Javea, Spain, to sweat it out and hope inspiration would flow like the region's three-euros-a-bottle Rioja. That, though, made their retreat more pissed-up than productive.

"We just got way too drunk all the time," laughs Rob. "We'd gone out there to write a hit song and were getting so out of it we couldn't work the recording programme!"

Having eventually found focus, the band – completed by guitarist Simon Delaney – drove back to the airport blasting a demo of what would become their latest single, *Superlove*, from the

the right guy," Matt says. "We started to question ourselves and be like, 'Are we just too difficult to work with?'"

With the band's label also deciding the summery sounding album would be better suited to a release the following August, the delays meant that, rather than release the album in time for their headline stint on the 2015 Relentless Kerrang! Tour in February, Don Broco would be left sitting silently on songs that had been the best part of a year in the making.

"That was massively frustrating for us," sighs Rob. "We were so happy with the album, and we wanted people to hear it instantly."

"We hated the feeling of leaving people waiting," remembers Tom.

The band were left waiting, too, sat in their Oxfordshire studio feeling pangs of jealousy over their peers' successes. Mallory Knox, who put out their debut album six months after Don Broco's *Priorities*, had long since put out their second, and were touring it around the world. "It was like being at school with your mates, and you're held back a year while they're allowed to carry on and do new cool subjects," admits Rob. "And you're stuck doing the same shit. That was a very real annoyance."

Jealousy, though, wasn't the only emotion Rob felt during the making of *Automatic*, either...

Anyone who doesn't know Rob Damiani might imagine him writing *Automatic*'s lyrics while curling a dumbbell in his left hand, or in the midst of devouring a mixed grill at Wetherspoons. But the reality was far from it – he worked from a

"THERE'S LYRICS THAT I MIGHT BE AFRAID TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT IN PERSON..."

ROB DAMIANI

stereo of the hire car, inspired by their wine bill.

"The album's title-track is about living life to the full and taking chances," explains the singer. "And *Superlove* is like the dark side to that, where you take things too far. Whether it's pursuing something with too much vigour, or drinking... If you get into anything too much, it's a bad thing. It's basically about being too in love with the vibe (*laughs*)!"

The vibe would turn from party to panic, however, when, with autumn looming, Don Broco were still struggling to find a producer for the record. "We started wondering if we'd ever find

And that, ladies and gents, is why we
always wear goggles when paintballing

don
broco



**"THE ALBUM
MAKES ME THINK:
'AM I EVEN CAPABLE
OF LOVE?'"**

ROB DAMIANI



We'll tell Rob that it's toxic later...
(Clockwise from top left): Simon Delaney,
Tom Doyle, Matt Donnelly and Rob Damiani

room above the stables of the recording studio-turned-farm where Don Broco were ensconced. "It was just me and a load of horses," laughs the singer. "Sometimes I wouldn't see the rest of the guys for the whole day, apart from meal times."

The reason Rob needed total isolation? So he could pen his most personal set of lyrics yet.

While on previous songs Rob put himself into character, such as on Thug Workout ("written from the viewpoint of some absolute knob in a club"), on this album he drew completely from his own experiences, and got brutally honest.

"There's some lyrics in there that I might be afraid to actually talk to someone about in person..." he admits, with an awkward laugh. "I tried to write about a lot of different things, so as well as the more emotional, heart-wrenching songs, there's songs that are just downright embarrassing."

The tracks most likely to turn Rob's cheeks the colour of his favourite wine? The ones about his tumultuous love life. I Got Sick is the admittance of being addicted to Instagram stalking a girl he used to date. Then there's Keep On Pushing, which talks about "how pathetic men are in relationships" when it comes to commitment – Rob himself included. Anyone who's ever broken up with someone, regretted it and gone crawling back should be able to relate to Nerve, while Fire talks of needing a spark at the start of a relationship, and staying with someone even when it's not there ("Have I found myself doing that? Yeah!" laughs Rob. "A lot of the time. It's just easier, isn't it?").

Then there's Let You Get Away, a song about the worst date Rob's ever been on. "We clearly didn't like each other; we didn't have a lot to talk about, yet we still ended up hooking up," Rob reveals. "And it was like, 'Why?'"

Whatever the reason, when Rob looks at his somewhat unsuccessful dating history laid out on Automatic, the singer doesn't feel particularly great about himself.

"Because some of the lyrics are quite cold, it does make me think, 'Am I even capable of love?'" Rob sighs. "Why aren't I writing about happy thoughts about being in love and wanting to spend all my time with someone? Have I just not found the right person yet, who's gonna make me feel butterflies in my stomach? Or am I just a selfish, self-centered person? It makes you question yourself."

Have you ever been in love before, Rob?

"It's hard to define what that is," he says, before reciting a reading from Captain Corelli's Mandolin he recently heard at Chris Batten from Enter Shikari's wedding. "When I dissected that,

and what I've been through in my relationships, I don't think I have ever had it to that degree."

He might be yet to find the love of his life, but Rob's definitely found his groove as a lyricist – baring his soul to heartfelt effect. His most poignant lyrics, however, were reserved for closing track Further.

Rob was sat at his parents' home in Bedford in October 2011 the moment he found out his best friend, Alex, had passed away.

"When my mum was telling me, I was like, 'No... that can't be true,'" remembers the frontman. "I'd only spoken to him a couple of days before – we were sorting out a lads' weekend away and just talking dates, which was the most normal thing ever."

Alex was travelling in Africa at the time of his death, thought to be related to malaria and a blood clot. Rob took on the difficult job of explaining that to everyone in his phone book, ringing them up one after the other. "In a way, maybe it was good for me," he ponders. "Because then I got to talk about it, rather than dealing with it completely on my own."

It was the first time Rob had lost anyone close who wasn't a grandparent and it put life – and the then uncertain future of his band – into perspective.

"Alex died so young, and always lived through the mantra of 'If you enjoy something, just do it' and that was what gave me the strength to follow my dreams and be in the band. For me, Further is a thanks to him for being my guide through that dark period."

Don Broco unveiled their shock new sponsorship deal with Daz



As Rob, Si, Tom and Matt enter the next era of Don Broco, then, they do it as serious musicians who've written not only the album of the summer, but one which reveals a deeper level of songwriting than they'd previously dare exhibit.

On the surface, Automatic is designed with long festival nights in mind. But within the fun and frolicking, there's serious songs about sadness, heartbreak and loss.

If you think that means they'll be leaving all the silliness that saw them labelled little more than a 'good times' band in the past, however, you'd be wrong.

"We like messing around and having fun and we want to show that," says Rob. "We don't wanna be miserable onstage and have photos of us wearing black and staring at the floor."

"We never set out to be the band who did press-ups onstage," adds Simon.

"Yeah, that happened organically. A fan did that," explains Matt. "He was tweeting about it and it became a thing without us. When it's already a thing in front of you, you have to embrace it."

"Even 'The Walk' during Priorities, it was just like, 'Oh, it's so funny, let's do it!'" reiterates Si.

"As long as people are having fun at a show, it doesn't matter!" summarises Tom.

True. But what if it means people keep dismissing you and never pay attention to the lyrics?

"My favourite bands growing up were blink-182 and Foo Fighters, and they had a load of fun," defends Rob. "You might see a blink-182 video and think, 'Who the hell are these jokers?' then you get into their album and there's some really emotional, serious lyrics on there. Foo Fighters are one of the biggest bands in the world, and they can put out a video for a tour with them lathering each other up in the shower. And everyone just accepts it because it's the Foo Fighters!"

And in the meantime, if you still don't like Don Broco's fun factor, don't expect Rob to be crying about it.

"Haters gonna hate," he laughs.

"You've gotta divide opinion. If people are like, 'Who the hell are these guys? What the hell are they playing at?' then you're doing something right."

You might not know Rob Damiani and Don Broco as well as you think, then. But with Automatic under their arms, they've never known themselves better.

AUTOMATIC IS OUT ON AUGUST 7 VIA EPIC. DON BROCO TOUR THE UK THIS AUGUST, AND PLAY LONDON'S O2 BRIXTON ACADEMY THIS DECEMBER. SEE THE GIG GUIDE

SAY IT AIN'T BRO!

DON BROCO
STRAIGHTEN OUT A
FEW MISCONCEPTIONS
ABOUT THEM...

PEOPLE THINK WE EAT NANDO'S ALL THE TIME...

SIMON: "People think we've got this brutal lad persona going on, that we're the 'Cheeky Nando's Band'. But we've got a rule we only have Nando's once in a tour, otherwise it gets stale!"



PEOPLE THINK WE PUT GIRLS IN ALL OUR VIDEOS...

MATT: "We actually asked for no girls in the last two videos – Automatic and Money Power Fame – but casting doesn't normally come down to us. It can often be very different from our original vision for the video."

PEOPLE THINK WE'VE BEEN GOING SINCE SCHOOL...

ROB: "...but we actually had a three-year break where we all went off to university and did our own thing. We've all got degrees – Matt even got a first in chemistry and came top of his year!"

PEOPLE THINK ROB'S GOT A REALLY PUNCHABLE FACE...

TOM: "We've had some tweets in the past that say Rob is quite arrogant, but obviously being a frontman onstage you have to be confident, it's all a stage persona – he's actually a very sweet guy!"



INTERVIEW

TAKING THE POWER BACK

WITH **RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE**, **TOM MORELLO** TOOK ON THE WORLD. NOW, HE'S LOOKING TO DO IT ALL AGAIN – WITH THE HELP OF SOME FRIENDS...

"People have been asking me for years, 'Can music change the world?' Well, it certainly changed *my* world."

If anyone's an authority on the matter, it's Tom Morello. The 51-year-old, Harlem-born Rage Against The Machine guitarist is responsible for some of the most vitriolic rebel anthems in music history. And he's more than aware of it – to the point where he'll downplay his own achievements in order to focus on the movement for change as a wider concept. Because to Tom's mind, there's plenty of work yet to be done, and that's unlikely to change during his lifetime.

"I'm very proud of what Rage did," Tom says. "But the struggle continues and we've gotta move forward. In all honesty, the world has never stopped needing artists that fight for justice. Bands come and go – Rage included – but there's always music fighting for something better. That's what being political is about."

It doesn't take long to get the impression that Tom Morello isn't especially keen on talking about the band we all know him from. The band that united the masses. The band that boldly threatened the powers that be. The band that never quite picked up where they left off in October 2000, when frontman Zack de la Rocha quit, stating "our decision-making process has completely failed", which in turn "undermined our artistic and political ideal".

On one hand you can hardly blame Tom. He's done way more beyond scrawl 'Arm The Homeless' across face of his guitar and bash out a few angry tunes. But as far as lasting impact goes, Rage will forever remain the biggest thorn he's used to prick the establishment's side. Theirs was a fire that today may not burn in the way it once did when Rage stormed the steps of New York's Wall Street Stock Exchange. But their voice and ideals continues to be instilled in a raft of politically conscious bands – and that, for Tom, gives him hope and encouragement.

"Sometimes different bands have abilities to create and inspire during different periods," offers Tom. "And the bands that are creating and inspiring the new generation are the ones of the future."

But to be more specific: what exactly is happening

with Rage Against The Machine right now?

"There's nothing going on at all," states the guitarist, without a trace of doubt. "There's no new news and there's nothing I could tell you that would help explain why we're not headlining Reading (*laughs*)!"

It's probably not quite the revelation we were all hoping for, but it's not without good reason.

Because right now, Tom Morello has his sights set elsewhere. Last month, he announced Firebrand Records: a new platform for real artists talking about real issues. The problem wasn't so much finding the voices to be heard, but rather uniting their collective power towards a greater good.

"It's rebel music for the next generation," Tom grins. "The idea behind it was to have artists of different genres, united by the fact that their music protests for a more just world. There's Ramy Essam – he's a huge rockstar in the Middle East. He was tortured and lives in exile for his role in the Egyptian revolution. Then there's Son Of Nun, a cancer survivor that ran a medical tent during the Baltimore Uprising over the police murders of African Americans. It's a label for great artists who share a vision."

The idea had been laying dormant in Tom's mind for some time. With Rage looking increasingly deadlocked by hiatus, it was his moonlighting as acoustic alter-ego The Nightwatchman that led him to punk musician and activist Ryan Harvey. Together, they began to sow the seeds of Firebrand Records.

"We [both] played shows that had barricades and clouds of tear gas," he chuckles, almost reminiscing fondly. "When it came to forming a new home for revolutionary artists, there was no-one better to do it with than Ryan. We're not looking for people that just have a point of view with shitty music... What we're trying to do is shine a light on music that *matters*. Music can light a spark, and we're bringing together a whole lot of sparks to light the bombfire."

It makes you wonder; is it always like this for Tom Morello? Does he ever find himself in the mood to listen to something a little less depressing, less *real*?

"Music is best when it's authentic and people sing about what matters to them, what their real concerns are," he begins. "If that's girls and cars, then by all means, sing about girls and cars (*laughs*)! Great music is great music. But if your concerns are racism or the destruction of the planet, you shouldn't censor yourself. For me, music is best when it's *dangerous*."

And as history has shown, music can be dangerous alright – arguably more so than its rival art forms. For one reason or another; the spirit and message of anarchic rebellion can refuse to die or fade when immortalised in song. Whether it manifests itself as 16 'Fuck you, I won't do what you tell me's, naked protests against PMRC censorship in a swamp of feedback, or echoes the plight of incarcerated activist Mumia Abu-Jamal, there's something magical about the power of music.

"Maybe it's been in human DNA since the very beginning," offers Tom. "It feels like the *truth* in a way no other art form can touch. There's nothing that connects with the human soul like music. You know you're connected to a larger world of ideas and people. Even for me, when I was a kid listening to my favourite bands like The Clash, Kiss or Public Enemy, I knew I wasn't alone. People that have music and activism in their blood just need to keep swinging. That's exactly what I'm trying to do with Firebrand."

The struggle continues, then. Consider the beacon of rebellion well and truly lit once again.



Calm Like A Bomb – Rage Against The Machine: (from left) Brad Wilk, Tim Commerford, Zack de la Rocha and Tom Morello

FOR MORE ON FIREBRAND RECORDS, SEE FIREBRANDRECORDS.COM

Now you're just
showing off, mate

TOM
MORELLO

"I'M PROUD
OF WHAT RAGE
DID. BUT WE
HAVE TO MOVE
FORWARD"

★ TOM MORELLO ★

RIFFS AGAINST THE MACHINE

MORELLO'S BEST SIX-
STRING ATTACKS

BULLET IN THE HEAD

Rage Against The Machine
(Self-titled, 1992)

Possibly Rage's most
ferocious riff, it sees Tom go
straight for the jugular.



PEOPLE OF THE SUN

Rage Against The Machine
(Evil Empire, 1996)

Scraping your pick
against the strings can
yield some 'interesting' results. And
Tom Morello is the master of it.



BORN OF A BROKEN MAN

Rage Against The Machine (The
Battle Of Los Angeles, 1999)

Tom's dead notes near
the riff's end make it feel like you're
being pummelled sideways.



COCHISE

Audioslave (Self-titled, 2002)

The debut track from
the Rage/Soundgarden
supergroup was the
anthem that proved Tom was not
done yet, not by a long shot.



RISE UP, RISE UP

Cypress Hill (Priority, 2010)

This single from
Cypress Hill's eighth
LP features monstrous
guitar work from Tom: in particular
this bluesy chromatic run.



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5 SECONDS OF SUMMER





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ALL WE KNOW
IS FALLING AT

10



KERRANG!
TWENTY ONE PILOTS

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INTERVIEW

DON'T STEP

ON THE

RATTLESNAKE

WHEN **FRANK CARTER** STEPPED AWAY FROM **GALLOWES**, HE THOUGHT HE WAS LEAVING HIS ANGER BEHIND, TOO. SO, WHY IS HE MORE FURIOUS THAN EVER?

In a north London pub, Frank Carter leafs through the notebook that's captured his lyrical ideas for the best part of a year. A little dog-eared, its pages have been structured into songs. Some are written in full, others comprise just a line or two, but every scribble makes for a window into Frank's soul.

He points to the first page, and the opening verse to Battlefield – a cyanide-laced slice of punk thrash from his latest project, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes.

"It goes, 'Life is a battlefield'," he says. "You must know, that everything you have will one day be gone / And everyone you love, they all die on their own".

He's flicking through the line-ruled pages, like photos from a painful, broken relationship. Some songs are greeted with wry smiles. On others, he has to fight back tears. "This is me," he says. "With all the changes along the way, all the hits I've taken. This..." He jabs his finger at the page, "is how I am."

Battlefield's heart-crushed catharsis is Frank's worldview in a nutshell. Over this past year, the one-time leader of sledgehammer punk four-piece Gallows had abandoned the melodic rock surge of follow-up band Pure Love, moved back to England from New York, and quit music to provide a more stable structure for his pregnant wife, Sarah. Within a short time of arriving home, the couple lost their jobs in a tattoo parlour. Not long afterwards, Sarah's father died. Their lives were in turmoil.

"It was the definitive example of life," he says. "We're beginning to start this new chapter with our child, which is monumental. Then [Sarah's] dad got sick and passed in a week. It was incredibly intense, and that's what kicked off the writing."

This was a bigger step than Frank's letting on. Following the break up of Pure Love, Frank turned his back on music. Punk friends were unfollowed on Facebook. He blocked out new albums and freshly formed bands. "I didn't listen to anything – just a lot of old stuff," Frank explains. "I'd had enough."

The words, when they arrived, were bloody and bleak. The songs, and the schematics of The Rattlesnakes' August debut album, Blossom, were super-violent. Beneath the raw wounds was a lyrical portrait, not only of Frank's desolate year, but his deepest fears, too. The isolation, paranoia and rage that made up much of Gallows' 2009 album, Grey Britain – the last that Frank would record with the band – had returned, but this time his eye had drifted beyond UK borders. On the track Paradise, he even challenges the suicide bomber ideology that Heaven is reward for their martyrdom.

"If you're taking life as a means to get to a better place then, as far as I'm concerned, that doesn't exist," he says. "And if it does exist, you deserve to

"YOU'RE AT YOUR MOST POWERFUL WHEN YOU'VE GOT NOTHING"

FRANK CARTER

be turned away at the door. It's weird, I've never really thought about writing in a way where it could actually get me into trouble, but it's one of those things where you do think about that now..."

Despite his claims not to be a political spokesman for a generation facing cuts, poverty and reduced opportunity, The Rattlesnakes' slashing riffola feels like a ticking bomb for uncertain times. Some of this anger stems from the fact that when he had a chance to have his say, he didn't use it: Frank didn't register to vote in the last election.

"We'd been out of the country for so long that I hadn't realised we hadn't," he says. "In hindsight, it's easy for me to say it wouldn't have made a

difference, but of course it would. I would have gone in and voted. I would have done my fucking bit."

How did it affect your writing?

"It's how Trouble came about," he says. "The first verse is from when I saw the news that IS had caught someone in Syria, put them in a cage and set them on fire. Fast forward to when I didn't vote and the results came in, I felt like that man in the cage. I felt so angry with myself."

Blossom, then, is a new chapter for Frank, but with a return to old values. As his material bleeds into playlists and onto radio, something he's had to relive is the claims he made during Pure Love's single Bury My Bones. 'I'm so sick of singing about hate', he sang. 'It's never going to make me change'. Statements that his rage had cooled have since proved premature. Frank knows that he can't rewrite old material, but he can justify his forward momentum.

"That angry man never leaves," he says. "But I'm not gonna be held to ransom over something I said four years ago."

Good news, then. Because if there's a political uprising on the horizon, then Blossom is its anarchic soundtrack.

"I will play like I'm on fire," Frank spits. "Like I have lead in my veins. I will destroy everyone in my path in order to deliver the best fucking performance I can as The Rattlesnakes."

"You're at your most powerful when you've got nothing," he adds. "I'd lost everything. I don't think I've ever been as dangerous as I am now."

Consider yourself warned...

BLOSSOM IS OUT ON AUGUST 14 VIA INTERNATIONAL DEATH CULT. THE BAND PLAY READING & LEEDS THIS SUMMER - SEE THE GIG GUIDE

We've told you, Frank: it doesn't matter how good your audition is, the Hulk wasn't ever in *Suicide Squad*...

U MAD, BRO?

WHAT'S GETTING FRANK RILED UP AGAIN?

THE GENERAL ELECTION

FRANK SAYS: "I was very disappointed with the path we chose as a country – again. What makes me more nervous is that I have a child now. I'm worried for her."



THE DEATH OF ART

FRANK SAYS: "Art and culture seems to have taken the biggest hit under the Tory government. It seems like people don't give a fuck about it any more."



THE SHEEP

FRANK SAYS: "There's less bands trying to find their way. What we don't need in rock music is sheep – we need forward-thinkers."





DENNIS LYXZÉN, REFUSED

If you're wondering why it took 17 years for Refused to follow up 1998's *The Shape Of Punk To Come* with this year's *Freedom*, you could believe the official line about them needing to 'rediscover their fire', and the like. Or, you could look to the Swedish fifth division, and the colours of Höjdens BK, for whom Dennis has been lining up. Refused's revival these past couple of years hasn't stopped him strapping on his shinpads, either, with the winger-come-striker turning out four times for the club last season, bagging himself a solitary goal. He's hoping fans aren't left waiting another 17 years for a follow-up to that...



BEN WARD, ORANGE GOBLIN

Before Orange Goblin vocalist Ben and bassist Martyn Millard were bandmates, they were very nearly teammates, having first met during their time on the youth training scheme at West London club Queens Park Rangers. Ben credits Martyn with first introducing him to the likes of Slayer and Napalm Death, and, having suffered their share of knocks, the pair decided to sack off training regimes in place of riffs. "It was clear after two years that I wasn't going to turn professional, and Martyn and I had both developed more of an interest in heavy metal, booze and women, so the football career just kinda fizzled out!" he told K!. It's not a bad substitute, really...



RIVERS CUOMO, WEEZER

Before college rock and sweaters, Rivers' first love was sport – a career path that he was denied d to having one leg that was nearly 5cm shorter than the other. Despite having a lengthy operation to fix his femur, Rivers would only be able to indulge his football fanaticism in song, writing a ditty titled *Our Time Will Come* after the USA's exit from the 2006 World Cup ("The message was: 'Some day, we're not going to go to a World Cup and get completely humiliated,'" he told *The Guardian*). In true *Roy Of The Rovers* style, though, Rivers' moment would come in 2008, when he took to LA Galaxy's home turf for a charity match – and bagged himself a goal. See? *Dreams can come true.*

SAVES, ROCK &

THE NEW FOOTBALL
SEASON KICKS OFF THIS
WEEKEND – AND THE
BEAUTIFUL GAME'S TIES WITH
ROCK AND METAL GO DEEPER
THAN YOU MIGHT EXPECT...



STEVE HARRIS, IRON MAIDEN

"The similarities between football and having a band are fairly numerous," Steve Harris told *Kerrang!* back in 1992. "You're playing in front of a lot of people, you have to be really dedicated and determined, and both are fairly short-term careers." Thirteen years and seven albums on from saying that, we might have to disagree with the latter point – but if anyone would know about the rest, it's Steve. Before turning to the bass and founding Maiden in 1975, Steve was a rather handy footballer; his skills even earning him the attention of West Ham United, the team that Steve has held a lifelong love for.



VIC FUENTES, PIERCE THE VEIL

He might currently be busy masterminding Pierce The Veil's next album, but had life panned out differently for frontman Vic, he might well be poring over a tactics board instead of a mixing desk right now. A former defender, Vic once told us that "before we started the band, I was a soccer coach. I played all my life up until college, and refereed for a while, too, then when I went to college I wanted to get more into design and started doing the band stuff." Good job, too – Vic finds stage-dives a hell of a lot more tolerable than footballers' diving. "I'm not into that at all," he tut-tuts.

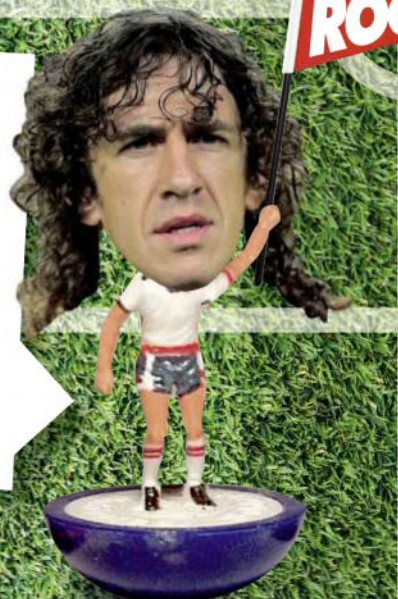
DARIO DUBOIS, ARGENTINA'S FACE-PAINTED CULT HERO

Of all our rock-loving footballers, none of them are quite as dedicated to the cause as death metal obsessive Dario Dubois. He might not have achieved much in his career kicking around the lower leagues in Argentina, but he was a household name nonetheless thanks in no small part to the corpse paint he would wear *during matches*. When, after numerous protests against his look from opponents, Dario was ordered to scrap his look, he simply wore band T-shirts under his kit, and spiked cuffs around his wrists. After forming a band following his retirement, he died after being shot, aged 37.



CARLES PUYOL, EX-BARCELONA & SPAIN DEFENDER

As a player, Spaniard Carles Puyol did just about everything. By the time he had retired in 2014, aged 36, Carles had played nearly 600 games for Barcelona and 100 times for his country, appearing in the biggest stadiums around the world and winning over 20 major titles plus the European Championship, World Cup and Olympic silver medal. The secret to his success? A warm-up regime that – genuinely – involved listening to British grindcore legends Napalm Death.



KASEY KELLER, FORMER USA INTERNATIONAL

An ex-Spurs, Leicester and USA goalkeeper, Kasey can count dozens of footballers among his friends – and he's got his share of pals in the rock world, too. He's "good friends" with David Draiman and Disturbed (and is presumably looking forward to their new *Immortalized* album this August), often hanging backstage at shows "trying not to get bullied into drinking too much Jägermeister", while he's also close to Tool bassist Justin Chancellor. He's previously even noted taking his daughter to see them soundcheck prior to a gig.



SLAVEN BILIC, WEST HAM PLAYER TURNED MANAGER

When former footballer Slaven Bilic hung up his boots in 2000, fans might have been forgiven for thinking they had seen him in a stadium for the last time. At least, in a football capacity, anyway. A defender before he retired, Slaven is also well-known as a member of Croatian rock band Rawbau, for whom he plays guitar. Instead, he went in to football management, often inspiring his teams with a pre-match metal playlist, or demanding that they be "as energetic as Iron Maiden". Apt, then, that this summer he was appointed the manager of Maiden bassist Steve Harris' beloved West Ham.



TOMÁŠ ROSICKÝ, ARSENAL SCHEMER

Having represented his country 100 times, Czech midfielder Tomáš has crafted a pretty successful career; but his calling could have easily been with a fretboard instead of a football. The Arsenal man is a renowned metalhead who lists Black Sabbath and Motörhead among his favourite bands, and cites watching Metallica play London's O2 Arena as his favourite gig ever. In March 2010, Tomáš even appeared onstage at an awards ceremony with 30-year Czech punk veterans Tři sestry, where he played guitar.



GOALS!

THE SONGS THAT SAVED MY LIFE

HOW DO YOU BECOME NEW GRAVE'S COOLEST FRONTWOMAN? WELL, IF YOU'RE ASH, YOU DYE YOUR HAIR. THEN YOU WRITE OFF STAGE-DIVING ON ACCOUNT OF CLUMSINESS. THEN YOU FILL YOUR IPOD WITH THIS STUFF...

THIS WEEK: ASH COSTELLO NEW YEARS DAY

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME THINK OF HOME IS...

CALIFORNIA

PHANTOM PLANET

"Every time we tour – and I've been touring for a very long time – we have a tradition. When we cross the border from Arizona or whichever direction we're coming from and come back into California, we play California by Phantom Planet. It goes, 'We've been on the run / Driving in the sun / Looking out for number one / California here we come / Right back where we started from'. It mentions the 101 [highway], and we're always on that road. When the sun's shining through the windows and we play that song, it's almost like a surreal movie moment, like we're soundtracking our lives."

FIND IT: The Guest (2002)

THE SONG I WOULD LIKE TO COVER IS...

FLAGPOLE SITTA

HARVEY DANGER

"This is a song that I've always wanted to cover because I feel like it's my theme song. It's who I am, it just gets me. It's paranoia and neuroses and being out of step with everyone around you. There's a few songs I'd like to cover, like Ludo's Love Me Dead, but if I had to choose one, it would definitely be Flagpole Sitta."

FIND IT: Where Have All The Merrymakers Gone? (1997)

THE SONG THAT'S MADE ME THE MOST CASH IS...

ANGEL EYES

NEW YEARS DAY

"This is the song we did with Chris [Motionless] from Motionless In White, and when we wrote it I knew it was really special. You could just feel something

magical, and then when Chris came in and did his vocals I just felt like we had something that was really one of a kind. Even so, I had no idea how much people were going to like it, or even that it would go on to win an award for the video at the Kerrang! Awards. People go crazy when they hear the intro, and it's so cool that we have a song like that now."

FIND IT: Victim To Villain (2013)

THE SONG WITH THE BEST LYRICS EVER IS...

#1 CRUSH

GARBAGE

"When I was younger and I first heard that song, it really got me. You could feel the pain and longing for someone in the lyrics, and the desperation of wanting to be with that person. I connect with

**"I'LL MAKE A
CONFESSION
– I'VE NEVER
STAGE-DIVED!"**

ASH COSTELLO



that because I'm a complete and utter hopeless romantic. It's a really well-written song that bummed me out but was super-relatable at the same time. I love when girls get down and dirty, and Shirley [Manson, Garbage frontwoman] is great at that."

FIND IT: Romeo And Juliet Soundtrack (1996)

THE LAST SONG THAT I LISTENED TO WAS...

NIGHTCALL

KAVINSKY

"This is an easy one! When I was getting ready to play today I put on Nightcall by Kavinsky. It's on the Drive soundtrack. Something about this song always puts me in a really chill, really positive, ready-to-take-on-whatever-I'm-about-to-do mood. I couldn't tell you why, but it's the song we put on when I did the sex scene with Chris Motionless in our video for Angel Eyes, and it's the song we played before every show on Warped Tour last year. It just makes me feel like I can do anything."

FIND IT: OutRun (2013)

THE SONG THAT YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT TO FIND ON MY IPOD PLAYLISTS IS...

CRY ME A RIVER

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE

"I have so many guilty pleasure songs but very little guilt! I love any song by Pitbull, but I'll go with Cry Me A River by Justin Timberlake. I actually really love this song, but I think most people would consider any of his songs a guilty pleasure."

FIND IT: Justified (2002)

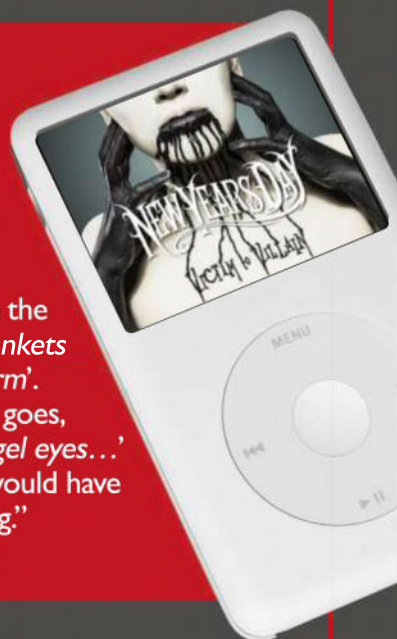
A SECRET ABOUT ONE OF MY SONGS IS...

ANGEL EYES

NEW YEARS DAY

"The lyrics are not the original lyrics. We came up with the melody before the lyrics, and the original lyrics went, 'Blankets are in my eyes and they keep me warm'. Try singing that over the bit where it goes, 'Don't you try to hide with those angel eyes...' They made no sense and everyone would have assumed I was on drugs or something."

FIND IT: Victim To Villain (2013)



THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO CRY...

DON'T GET DOWN

PHANTOM PLANET

"This song is so old now, and it's really hard to find. You can't even YouTube it, but the lyrics are probably the saddest lyrics I've ever heard in my life. It starts off, 'I wanna live on the moon / Never see a human again / And as the Earth explodes, I'll light a candle for my dead best friends'. Whenever I'm feeling depressed and I really want to drive it home, this is the song I put on."

FIND IT: Phantom Planet Is Missing (1998)

THE BEST SONG EVER WRITTEN IS...

EYE

SMASHING PUMPKINS

"The best song ever? Are you guys trying to kill my brain?! The song I've had on repeat a lot recently is a song called Eye by Smashing Pumpkins. This song is just the right amount of sexy and simplicity and darkness and groove. It's got a great

feel to it, and it's one of the most played tracks on my iTunes right now, so I'd say it's one of the best songs ever."

FIND IT: Lost Highway Soundtrack (1997)

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO STAGE-DIVE IS...

THE LEAVING SONG PT. 2

AFI

"I'll make a confession – I've never stage-dived in my life. I've always hesitated because I'm so clumsy. I'd be afraid that I was going to break a leg or dislocate my knee and also, being a girl, I get a little worried about all the hands. But if I saw AFI and I was feeling a little frisky and a little crazy, this would be the song to do it to."

FIND IT: Sing The Sorrow (2003)



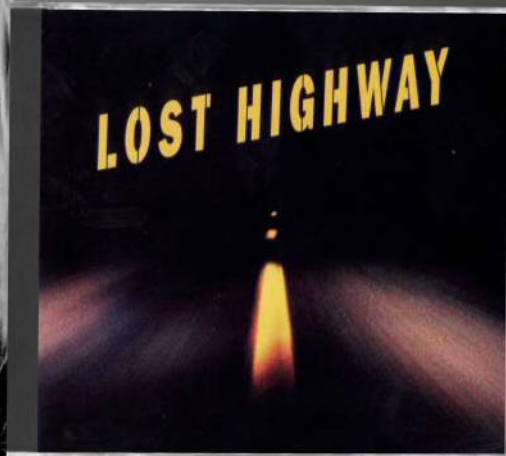
THE SONG OF OURS THAT'S HARDEST TO PLAY IS...

I'M NO GOOD

NEW YEARS DAY

"For the longest time this was a really hard song for me to sing. It was really high in my register and it's very wordy. Add the fact that it's a very fast-paced rock song, so I'm usually moving around a lot, and that combination of high-pitch, wordiness and jumping up and down made it really challenging. It was a thorn in my side for a long time. Now I've got it down and the newest song is always the hardest, but that's the one from our back catalogue that's stood out."

FIND IT: Victim To Villain (2013)



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ANATOMY OF A ROCKSTAR

BEN BARLOW NECK DEEP

THIS SINGER IS GOOD AT FOOTBALL, AND PARTIAL TO A CRY WHEN CITY AND COLOUR ARE ONSTAGE...

fig.1

THE FILM THAT MAKES ME LAUGH EVERY TIME IS...

"Dumb And Dumber. It's aged quite well and, if anything, it's even more funny now, which you can't say about many films. When I was at university I watched the extended version and it was just creepy! The Jim Carrey character was super-weird, and it definitely made me want to stick to the version I knew!"

fig.2

THE PLACE I'D NEVER GET TATTOOED IS...

"My neck or hands. But when I've covered everywhere else, chances are I'll be like, 'Fuck it, why not?' One of the best things about touring is that I've been able to get tattoos by amazing artists that I would probably never have encountered otherwise. I went through a phase of trying to draw my own flash but never got any good at it. I can do a decent rose, though!"

fig.3

THE BEST SKILL IN MY ARSENAL IS...

"Playing football. I played from ages nine to 16 and I was pretty good at that. I'm good with my hands and worked at Halfords for a while and got really good at fixing bikes. I can also draw okay, and I'm good with words. I don't know what my calling is, and you could probably say it's music, but who knows? Maybe I've yet to find the one thing I really excel at."

fig.4

THE WAY I KEEP FIT IS...

"Playing five-a-side with my mates. I still skate a lot, too. It takes a lot of stamina to skate for several hours! Really it's playing shows that gives me the best exercise these days. It's a work-out in itself, and probably the reason I'm not a fat, sweaty ogre is because I move around so much when I'm onstage, which helps cancel out all the shit I eat on tour!"

fig.5

I GET ANGRY WHEN...

"Discussing the state of the world – I've never been an angry guy, but that gets me really heated. There are a lot of good people out there, but there's also a lot of fucked-up, terrible people, too, and nothing annoys me more than small-minded and inconsiderate people, people who don't think before they talk, or have fucked-up views for absolutely no reason. Okay, that and Man United losing gets me really worked up..."

fig.6

THE RECORD I GO TO WHEN I'M FEELING DOWN IS...

"Bring Me Love by City And Colour. I don't know if that *helps* me, because it tends to make me get way deeper into whatever it is that's getting to me. It's helped me through a lot of shit when I've been in 'not good' places. After blink-182, Dallas Green is my biggest influence. I only ever got to see him once, which was at Reading or Leeds, and I actually teared up. It was amazing."

fig.7

THE THING AT THE TOP OF MY BUCKET LIST IS...

"Go skydiving. It just looks like it'd be the ultimate rush, and it's something I *have* to do at some point. Me and Lloyd [Roberts, guitar] went on this giant 'swing' thing, where you get strapped in and raised up 200 feet, and you pull the cord and drop. There's a couple of seconds where you're hurtling at the ground before the swing catches, and fuck those couple of seconds are insane!"

fig.8

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MY LIFE IS...

"Family. I love being at home because I love being around them. They've always been *super*-supportive, and they've always been cool with there being a bunch of people in my house when we've been recording and stuff. If 10 or 15 years down the line I can maybe say, 'Mum, here's some money, thanks for putting up with all the shit I've heaped on you over the years!' that'd be great."

fig.9

SOMETHING I'VE NEVER DONE IS...

"Serious, actual travelling. While you do get to see some awesome stuff while you're on tour, it's a lot less than people think, because you spend most of your time in the van or at venues. I want to go to all of the obvious tourist spots and all the cool cities out there, but I also want to go to some more exotic and out-of-the-way places. I honestly would be down to go anywhere, any time."

"I TEARED UP
WATCHING
DALLAS
GREEN PLAY"

• BEN BARLOW •

LIVES

RATINGS

KKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

FOO FIGHTERS

PLUS: ROYAL BLOOD

CITI FIELD, NEW YORK. 16.07.15

KKKKKK

GROHL'S GAME OF THRONES DOES
THE DOUBLE IN THE BIG APPLE

WORDS: JOHN TRUMAN

PHOTO: GREG ALLEN/INVISION/AP/PRESS ASSOCIATION IMAGES



HERE COMES our hero, watch him on his throne.

Imagine being Dave Grohl. Imagine coming a cropper in front of thousands of people, breaking your leg, taking a short rest while a doc patches you up as your bandmates do a cover, finishing the gig, then – a couple of cancellations and rescheduled UK shows aside – keeping on trucking. And not by half, either. Two nights in a baseball stadium in the coolest city in America? No problem. In fact, why not do it on a throne made of guitars? Practical, and it sends out a loud, clear message: even forced to stay in one place by a busted trotter, Dave Grohl is still the king of cool.

Talking of royalty, Royal Blood can't be too unhappy that Dave's made of tougher stuff than your average battleship, and thus the tour's still on. It's a lot of noise for two people, and the enormous riffs Mike Kerr pounds from his bass fill this enormous open-air space like tar slowly enveloping the stadium. Outside of prime '70s Zeppelin or The Grand Canyon,

you'd be hard pushed to find a bigger, rockier groove.

The cheer that greets Foos' backdrop is deafening. That's drowned out by the one that goes up when The Throne arrives onstage. So, when the Foos finally arrive and burst into Everlong – and it's a special type of band who can throw out one of the biggest, best rock songs of the last two decades as an opener rather than a grand finale – the entire stadium goes fucking spare. Monkey Wrench and Learn To Fly follow like a procession of hits, with Dave's smile almost obscuring the enormous throne he's parked on.

And the inconvenient leg injury doesn't stop the Foos from turning horsing around into one of the most entertaining gigs you'll ever see. Covers? No problem – they blast through Kiss' Detroit Rock City, Thin Lizzy's Jailbreak and Alice Cooper's School's Out mid-set. Then Taylor Hawkins takes the mic for Cold Day In The Sun and a run-through of Queen and David Bowie's Under Pressure. You want special guests? How about members of D.C. punk pioneers Bad Brains turning up to rock through their How Low Can A Punk Get? and The Regulator, which Dave calls "the best moment of my fucking life"! Somewhere, you can almost hear previous guest Jimmy Page's heart breaking a little from across the Atlantic.

Even with 45,000 people filling out Citi Field, tonight (and, indeed, last night, or any other night at a Foos gig) isn't a soulless exercise in impersonality in some hotdog-reeking sports stadium. This is a kegger in a back garden, just with a few more people than usual, watching their mates' band having a laugh. That's why, rather than pulling the legs out from under the band, Dave Grohl's insistence on playing on with his injury just makes him a bit more human. And even more likeable.

FOO FIGHTERS

Everlong
Monkey Wrench
Learn to Fly
Something From Nothing
The Pretender
Big Me
Congregation
Walk
Detroit Rock City
(Kiss cover)
Jailbreak
(Thin Lizzy cover)
School's Out
(Alice Cooper cover)
Cold Day In The Sun
(Taylor Hawkins
on vocals)
My Hero (Acoustic)
Times Like These (Acoustic)

Under Pressure (Queen &
David Bowie cover)
All My Life
These Days
Outside
Breakout
Dear Rosemary
Breakdown (Tom Petty And
The Heartbreakers cover)
White Limo
Arlandria
How Low Can A Punk Get?
(Bad Brains cover, with Bad
Brains)
The Regulator
(Bad Brains cover with Bad
Brains)
This Is A Call
Best Of You

Whoever wished Dave
luck with a 'Break a leg'
was feeling just awful



Manson really should have washed his hands after mending his bike chain

SMASHING PUMPKINS & MARILYN MANSON

FREEMAN COLISEUM, SAN ANTONIO. 18.07.15

KKKK

DOUBLE-TROUBLE DOUBLE-BILL ROLLS INTO THE LONE-STAR STATE

WORDS & PHOTOS: SAM BURRELL

■ **MARILYN MANSON:** Antichrist Superstar, ultra-flamboyant rock god, a man for whom the notion of reining it in is as alien as his wardrobe looks. Billy Corgan: musical genius who prefers to mumble into the mic between songs (if at all), and prefers to play awkwardly hunched over his guitar, rather than throw axe-hero shapes. But opposites attract, and while on paper Marilyn Corgan (Mazgan? Billilyn? Help us out here!)

seems an odd combo – and the two different audiences are clearly noticeable – in the flesh, it's an almost perfect balance.

Up first, Manson continues his current trick of reminding us that he is actually still The God Of Fuck, after his years in the wilderness. Here, in Texas, his Southern Preacher-ish drawl is darkly appropriate, and acting part-fallen angel, part-glittery rockstar, the way he slithers and chokes his way through MOBScene and Third Day Of A Seven Day Binge are simply brilliant.

There's no such hi-jinx from Smashing Pumpkins, though. Billy Corgan says nothing to the crowd, and barely interacts with his band onstage. But on a purely musical level, they are sublime. Tonight, Tonight and 1979 are perfect. More than that, it's amazing to actually hear 'The Hits', rather than Billy delving into his deep cuts selection at the expense of favourites and fans' enjoyment, as has been his recent habit. And – Jesus Christ – is that a *smile* at the end?!

Two very different rockstars. Two very different sets. One great meeting of minds.

"Hello, I'm Billy, I'll be your Blackjack dealer tonight..."

DECAPITATED

PLUS: ROLO TOMASSI

NEWARK SHOWGROUND, NEWARK-ON-TRENT. 12.07.15

KKKKKK

POLISH DEATH METALLERS SEVER HEADS IN THEIR ONLY UK FESTIVAL APPEARANCE

■ TECH FEST, while still in its infancy, is quickly becoming one of the coolest metal fests in the UK. Catering mainly for djent, this year sees the festival evolve slightly, with Polish death metal heroes Decapitated being handed the closing night headline slot this year. However, while Decapitated are preparing for war backstage, Rolo Tomassi arrive in the stage-cum-stable to land the first strike with an assault of dazzling technical noise and beautiful weirdness. Eva Spence is a force to be reckoned with, screaming, twirling and dancing, as the crushing Opalescent shudders the very foundations of the building beneath them. But even next to Rolo Tomassi's noise, Decapitated are a nuclear wind of a band. Guitarist Vogg's riffs feel like they're being fired out of a machine gun, such is their deadly speed and brutality, with Pest and the ear-boggling Spheres Of Madness threatening to break the fingers of anyone trying to air guitar along. Never mind about tomorrow's bangover – tonight, Decapitated nearly take our heads clean off.

JAMES HINGLE

ANVIL

PLUS: DENDERA, SEMPER FI

O2 ABC2, GLASGOW. 15.07.15

KKK

CANADIAN PROTO-THRASH PUGILISTS ROLL BACK THE YEARS IN SCOTLAND

■ "METAL KNOWS no age, right?!" If anyone can get away with such creaky cliché, it's livewire Anvil frontman Steve "Lips" Kudlow. Nearly four decades since he and percussionist/best friend Robb Reiner first hit the road, he still sweats, shreds and spirals like an untamed rookie. Sneaking into the crowd for grungy Glaswegian openers Semper Fi and slickly commanding Portsmouth Maiden-worshippers Dendera tonight, he's clearly still a fan, too. And as he tumbles onstage – hair wild, eyes comically boggling – and into a banging 666, he finds a room packed with like-minded beer-bellies and bald-spots. Anvil – now completed by four-stringer Chris Robertson ("We go through bassists like Spinal Tap through drummers!") Lips chuckles invoking their career-salvaging 2008 rock-doc) – have always been coloured more by thick-skinned, thicker-skulled determination than by quality. But the unabashed, horns-aft authenticity of everything – from Mothra's vibrator-powered solo (seriously) to Eat Your Words' thrash-indebted rumble to a closing cover of Steppenwolf's Born To Be Wild – ensures only hard-hearted bastards don't leave with a smile.

SAM LAW

I THE MIGHTY

PLUS: HAIL THE SUN, TOO CLOSE TO TOUCH, CRIME ALERT, SPYGLASS HILL

STUDIO AT WEBSTER HALL, NEW YORK. 07.07.15

KKKKK

POST-HARDCORE TOUR DE FORCE 'CONNECTOUR' ROCKS THE BIG APPLE

■ IF YOU walk into a crowded concert venue in Manhattan and talk to anyone, they're bound to say that "all bands are biggest in New York". It's not often, however, that bands can go from playing a half-filled venue as support, to nearly selling out that same venue on their first headlining tour in just over a year. The evening gets underway with three-

piece screamo outfit Spyglass Hill and alt-rockers Crime Alert powering through impressive, lively sets. They're followed by an airtight performance from Too Close To Touch, with vocalist Keaton Pierce showing himself to be a star in the making, before we're treated to Hail The Sun's eccentric, technical post-hardcore. But it's I The Mighty who are mightiest tonight, and the Washington alt-rockers' set boasts maturity, presence, and comfort well beyond their years, just like on their recent 4K-rated Reactor album. With their cult of fans singing along all the while, tonight proves that this band have built a, ahem, connection with people that's going to keep shooting them upward for a long time yet. Watch this space.

HANSEL ROMERO

BLOOD YOUTH

PLUS: TRASH BOAT, BOSTON MANOR, WARS
BARFLY, LONDON. 21.07.15

KKKK

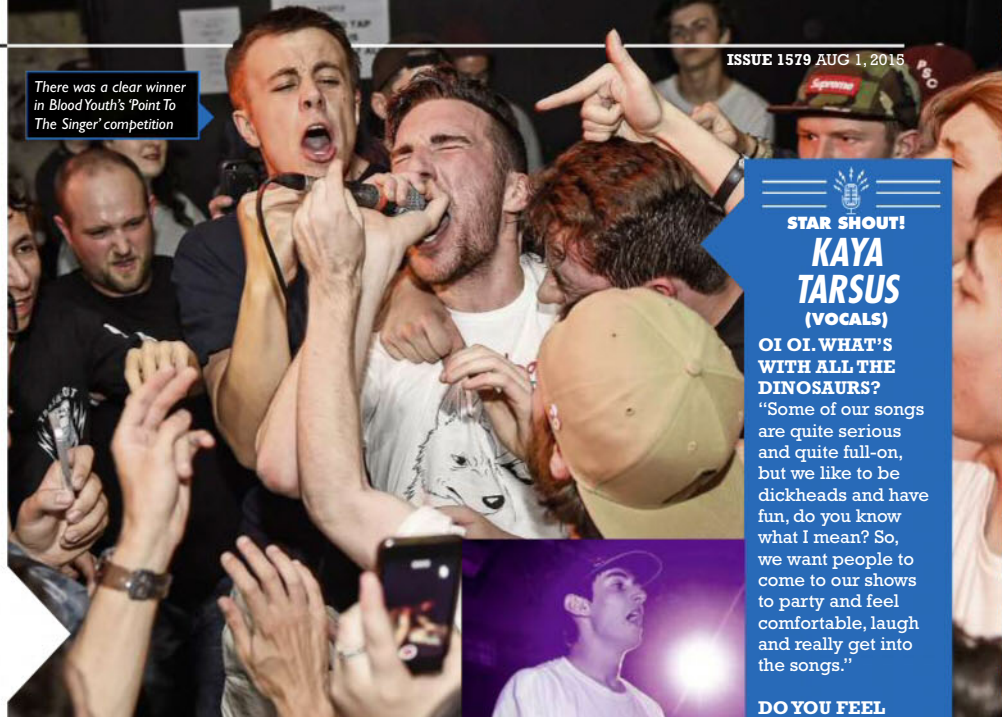
RIISING BRIT POP-PUNKS GET THE PARTY STARTED ON KILLER UK HEADLINE TOUR

■ ASTWO inflatable T. rex's and two palm trees grace the stage, we question if we've just walked into a shit sequel to Jurassic World. Luckily, they're just props for Blood Youth, whose hardcore-meets-pop-punk concoction is the sort of party such horsing around was invented for. Getting the party started, though, are Wars, whose frontman, Rob Vicars, unleashes his inner Dennis Lyxzen, while Boston Manor encourage everyone to jump on their invisible pogo sticks. Then the HMS Pop-Punk sails into town with the UK's great sunny hope, Trash Boat, who encourage as many members of

the audience as possible to jump on board with them. Well, onto the stage. Perspective, from their latest EP, Brainwork, is a riot, one that wouldn't look too bad on Warped Tour next year... Then Blood Youth arrive, and the party goes into overdrive. Failure, from their latest EP, Inside My Head, is met by sheer pandemonium, as a T. rex looks on at frontman Kaya Tarsus disappearing into the crowd for a boogie. If you want Blood, you got it. If you want fun, even more so.

JAMES HINGLE

There was a clear winner in Blood Youth's 'Point To The Singer' competition



STAR SHOUT! KAYA TARSUS (VOCALS)

OI OI. WHAT'S WITH ALL THE DINOSAURS?

"Some of our songs are quite serious and quite full-on, but we like to be dickheads and have fun, do you know what I mean? So, we want people to come to our shows to party and feel comfortable, laugh and really get into the songs."

DO YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH THAT MANY CROWD-SURFERS?

"I used to go to a lot of hardcore shows when I was younger. I was the kid jumping offstage and I kinda still am, so we love seeing that kinda shit at our shows. It's what it's all about!"



Trash Boat's miniature sun 'trick' was incredible

PHOTOS: ANDREW TIMMS



Eating microphones: a painful enterprise

STAR SHOUT! NICK OLIVERI (GUITAR/VOCALS)

YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING FUN DURING THAT STAGE INVASION!

"I've been trying to live up to the crowd on this tour and it's been hard to do! They've been that great. Every night, I've met pretty much everyone that comes to the show. You gotta remember without them, I wouldn't be playing. Personally, I wouldn't see a guy play acoustic unless it was Lemmy!"

HOW DID YOU GET SUCH A HEAVY ACOUSTIC GUITAR SOUND?

"I've got this special pedal, but only just got it back after it was stolen in Dublin. They got it on camera and put it out on Facebook, so the guy brought it back. But you know, if the dude had just asked me for it, I probably would have given it to him!"

NICK OLIVERI

PLUS: CRYSTAL HEAD

BOSTON MUSIC ROOM, LONDON. 18.07.15

KKKK

FORMER QOTSA WILDMAN GETS INTIMATE IN LONDON

WORDS: AMIT SHARMA PHOTO: CHRIS CASEY

■ IT'S NOT often you'll walk into a gig and spot the headliner in the smoking area, hanging out with fans and regaling them with anecdotes. But that's just Nick Oliveri all over. Sure, he's been fired from big bands, gone head-to-head with SWAT teams and was once arrested for terrorising Terrorvision – but this is a man with a story and ain't nobody gonna stop him from telling it. First, though, London grunge trio Crystal Head whip out the acoustics for a swampy unplugged set that peaks with a soaring rendition of The Doors' classic People Are Strange.

"This isn't death metal, this is death acoustic!" spits Nick Oliveri, before thrashing seven shades of shit out of his poor six-string and defying the laws of physics in volume. People pass over tequila shots from the bar as he takes us through his finest moments in Kyuss, Dwarves, QOTSA and more, even joining the man onstage for Feel Good Hit Of The Summer. "Right now is our time," he grins, like we've all just accidentally joined his cult. The room is only half full – its numbers including a certain Phil Campbell of Motörhead fame – but it matters not: the party is in full swing and Nick has the voice, charisma and tunes to make it a night to remember.

REVIEW

BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE

VENOM (SONY)

KKKK

BULLET REARM ON DEADLY FIFTH ALBUM



"VENOM WILL be the metal album of 2015." Strong words from Matt Tuck there, talking to Kerrang! a few weeks back about Bullet For My Valentine's fifth album. Words that could indeed be choked upon when crunch time comes and the gods of fate begin divvying up the humble pie and serving it to those whose egos wrote cheques their music couldn't cash. But if ever there was a time for Bullet to make such a statement, it is now. The departure of bassist Jason 'Jay' James rocked the boat (although it rocked more than their so-so appearance at Download in 2013). That year's *Temper Temper*, emerging after a time of burnout, stress and, in the case of drummer Moose, boozing that could have called time on the band, was Bullet merely firing on some cylinders. Meanwhile, time has seen the band graduate

from a young gang of rising metal wunderkinds, to taking up the mantle of elder statesmen of modern British metal. A fine table to be at, but also one with a totally precarious seating plan, with younger pups just waiting to pull your seat out from under you.

What Venom does from the off is loudly, clearly and authoritatively shout, "Get your tanks off my lawn," at anyone eyeing up Bullet's crown. After a recent period of *ennui*, this is the sound of this band giving it both barrels once more. There's a fighty, backs-against-the-wall edge to thrashing opener *No Way Out* and *Army Of Noise*'s attack. In fact, the former is probably the heaviest, most aggressive thing this band have ever done. But even with Matt handling bass (recording before the arrival of new four-stringer Jamie Mathias), rather than sounding like a depleted force marshalling

themselves for a final showdown, what you get here is a champ raising himself to full height again after a moment of taking his eye off the ball, and reminding you what a devastating force he is. The aptly named *You Want A Battle? (Here's A War)* is a haymaker of a metal anthem, with Matt and co-axeman Michael 'Padge' Paget's duelling riffs sounding like a sword fight on fast-forward, while the defiant *Hell Or High Water* is a tidal wave of sheer brute power.

After a shake-up, a kicking and a worry that the batteries were running down, Bullet For My Valentine needed to return with something deadly. Rather than poisoning them, Venom has injected a whole new life into the British metal heroes.

DOWNLOAD: *You Want A Battle? (Here's A War)*, *No Way Out*.

FOR FANS OF: Metallica, Avenged Sevenfold.
NICK RUSKELL



RATINGS

KKKKK = CLASSIC
 KKKK = EXCELLENT
 KKK = GOOD
 KK = AVERAGE
 K = POOR



“WE’VE WRITTEN
 SOME OF OUR
 HEAVIEST, DARKEST
 SONGS...”

MATT TUCK

THE INSIDER MATT TUCK (VOCALS/GUITAR)

WELCOME BACK! YOU’VE BEEN IN THE STUDIO A WHILE...
 “I know! We’ve never spent as long as this writing and recording an album. We worked on everything for a long time, getting it all right. We’ve never done some of the things on this

album before. I think it’s definitely got some of our heaviest and darkest songs on it.”

HOW’S YOUR NEW BASSIST, JAMIE MATHIAS, FITTING IN?
 “Really well. We knew we’d found the right guy almost as soon as he came in to the audition. We tried out a few people, but then when Jamie came in he just smashed it. He fitted in instantly,

which was awesome. Plus he’s Welsh!”

YOU’VE GOT SOME BIG AMBITIONS FOR THIS ALBUM, YES?
 “Yeah, we’ve got massive hopes for it. We really do believe it’s going to be big. We’ve felt like that about records in the past and been spot on, but this one feels even more special than anything we’ve done before.”



FRANK TURNER

POSITIVE SONGS FOR NEGATIVE PEOPLE (XTRA MILE)

KKK

THE HAMPSHIRE TROUBADOUR (ACOUSTIC) ROCKS THE DEMONS AWAY WITH HIS NEW, POSITIVE ATTITUDE

1 THE ANGEL ISLINGTON

Remember Frank Turner’s last album, Tape Deck Heart? Pretty good. But it came with a darkness, a weariness, a personal low-water-mark. Not here. There may still be troubled times in Frank’s recent past, but he’s approaching them with a more stoic PMA now. Just check out this thumping opener:

2 GET BETTER

What’s in a title? Plenty, in the case of this slice of acoustic folk-punk. We find Frank poo-pooing moping around and taking life by the horns.

3 THE NEXT STORM

‘It’s easy enough to talk about Blitz spirit / When you’re not holding the roof up and knee deep in it’, muses Frank, before staunchly declaring his intentions to keep going with life, rather than hide from it.

4 THE OPENING ACT OF SPRING

Our hero picks himself up with a bouncy riff. But there’s doubt; ‘I know that something has to change / But there is no path I can choose that will not bring somebody pain’. Crikey.

5 GLORIOUS YOU

A melancholy guitar backs lyrics about pulling together to ‘Lift the weight from your shoulders’. Lovely stuff.

6 MITTENS

A strange analogy for a break-up, the difference between mittens and gloves. But tied to some Gaslight-ish Americana, it works well.

7 OUT OF BREATH

A stompy punk rager with the kick of an angry donkey. After all the strife, this folk-punk is as refreshing as a swig of cider on a bale of hay.

8 DEMONS

They aren’t going to defeat Frank. But the demons are coming back. And he sounds pissed-off about it.

9 JOSEPHINE

A name that came to Frank in a dream. You don’t need to worry about this one.

10 LOVE FORTY DOWN

A tennis analogy now. Sadly, it’s not an ace.

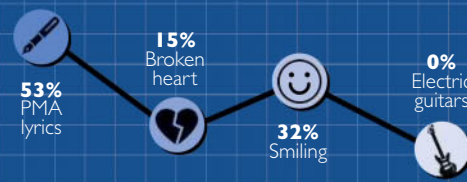
11 SILENT KEY

That’s better. A hard-strumming belter to sort-of pump your fist to. Sort of.

12 SONG FOR JOSH

A heartbreaking song about a friend who took his own life. But it’s oddly uplifting, too. Because, as Frank says in the song and through the album, while life isn’t without hardship, ‘There is always hope left’. A beautiful way to finish.

THIS ALBUM IS MOSTLY MADE UP OF...



WORDS: NICK RUSSELL

FEAR FACTORY

GENEXUS (NUCLEAR BLAST)

KKK

SCI-FI OBSESSED METALLERS CONTINUE WITH THE RISE OF THE MACHINES



■ FEAR FACTORY weren't the first band to weld the power of metal to the cold-hearted pounding of machinelike industrial beats, but no other band more fully embraced the man/machine conflict than these sci-fi obsessives did. The machine-gun rattle of the taut riffs and militaristic drums, the liberal use of atmospheric keyboards and, of course, the dystopian lyrics made genuinely essential albums like 1995's *Demanufacture* and 1998's *Obsolete* seem like the metal equivalent of *Terminator 2*. But now times have changed, we all have a super-computer in our pocket, and the threat of machines suddenly rising up and enslaving us seems less dangerous than the dreadful things human beings are capable of doing to one another. And yet Fear Factory's obsession with the war of man against machine doesn't come over like finding a knackered old VHS of some dodgy '80s sci-fi flick. Dino Cazares' riffs and Mike Heller's ultra-tight rhythms sound like an angry bit of factory machinery raining merciless (for machines cannot feel mercy) blows down on a worthless human skull, while frontman Burton C. Bell remains as shouty as ever, even if the 'The end is nigh' vibe is now comfortably familiar, rather than terrifyingly portentous. So, even though your iPhone isn't going to suddenly blow your head off as part of a huge mechanical conspiracy, Fear Factory continue to make the future sound dark and dangerous.

DOWNLOAD: Genexus.

FOR FANS OF: Ministry, Meshuggah.

NICK RUSKELL

WRESTLEDABEARONCE

HAIL MARY (ARTERY)

KKKK

LOUISIANA MADBALLS MAKE THE ANGRIST ALBUM OF THEIR CAREER



■ SERIOUSLY, WHAT the hell's happened to *WrestleDABearOnce*? For a band who specialise in twisting riffs into uncomfortable, advanced yoga shapes, their 2013 record, *Late For Nothing*, was the most easy-going, radio-friendly thing they'd ever done. Compare that album's breezy opening track, *Thunderchunk*, to *Hail Mary's* opening track, *Gift Of Death*, and we may as well be dealing with a different band now. To say this is the heaviest record of their career would be an understatement. This is 14 tracks of utterly dizzying whatyamacallitcore. They still leave space for quiet'n'quirk on *Doomed To Fail Pt 1* and 2, but not much. For the most part, running your bonce through a boat propeller would be less of a headfuck than *Hail Mary*. Which, by the way, is a very, very good thing.

DOWNLOAD: *Doomed To Fail Pt 1*.

FOR FANS OF: The Chariot, Protest The Hero, Rolo Tomassi.

GEORGE GARNER



LYRIC OF THE WEEK

Randy Blythe is really pissed-off on the new *Lamb Of God* album. And his jail hell was just the start of it. 'Someone should stitch your mouth shut', he rages here, 'And solve your fucking problem'. We dunno who Randy's singing about, but they sound like a dick.

BAND: Lamb Of God
SONG: Overlord
ALBUM: VII: Sturm Und Drang



SLEEVE OF THE WEEK

"'Ello 'ello 'ello, what's going on 'ere, then?'" Oh, nothing, officer, just a load of psych-rock trippiness from Cambridge's resident acid-heads, *Uncle Acid... But say, what's going on with you, man? You look like the bad cop in a weird '60s British horror movie. What're you doi... AAAAAH!*



VIDEO OF THE WEEK

GOLDEN STEPS, NECK DEEP If there's one thing Neck Deep love, it's pop-punk. If there's another, it's skateboarding. **MASH-UP ALERT!** Here they are playing on a skate ramp. **ON THE BACK OF A MOVING TRUCK!** Wrexham? It almost kills 'em.

BURIED IN VERONA

VULTURES ABOVE, LIONS BELOW (UNFD)

KK

AUSSIE METALCORE CREW GO OFF THE MUSICAL RAILS ON FIFTH ALBUM



■ SOME BANDS are damned if they do and damned if they don't. There's nothing wrong with musical change, but then again, try getting the average Architects

fan to stick more than a third of *The Here And Now* on a playlist. Here, *Buried In Verona* take similar wide sidesteps from their ultra-heavy, super-technical core sound. There are big radio-chasing ballads, the sort of nu-metalcore Of Mice & Men dabbled with on their last outing, and the occasional flash of genuine invention here. Individually, most of the songs are fine, in particular *Hurricane* and the catchy *Reflection*, but, as a whole, the album is a mess. Now watch those vultures descend. **DOWNLOAD:** *Hurricane*, *Reflection*. **FOR FANS OF:** Bring Me The Horizon, Architects, Of Mice & Men.

PAUL TRAVERS

BELLEVUE DAYS

THE SUN CAME UP WHEN WE WERE YOUNG (SELF-RELEASE)

KKK

MISERABLE DEBUT FROM BRAND NEW-LOVING CROYDON ALT.ROCKERS



■ HEY, HAVEN'T we seen that album art before? Slat wall, masked creeps, that font. Yep, the cover of Croydon-based emos *Bellevue Days'* debut EP is clearly tipping its hat to Brand New specifically *The Devil And God Are Raging Inside Me*. As it happens, *The Sun Came Up* isn't too far off that mark musically, either. Here are four songs packed with twinkly guitars and wailing refrains that cover moody themes, from the girl they can't take home to longing for the darkness of night when you're low. Make a note of this band's name. This is a promising little start from four lads making misery a pleasure.

DOWNLOAD: *Capability*, *Capability*.

FOR FANS OF: *Moose Blood*, *Boston Manor*, *Neck Deep*.

HANNAH EWENS

META-STASIS

THE PARADOX OF METANOIA (DEPRAVED)

KKKK

CHEST-BURSTING SOUNDS FROM SPACE AGE BRITISH METAL COLLECTIVE



■ THE FACT that *Meta-stasis* are a gathering of Brit underground talent from *SikTh* and *Ted Maul* is irrelevant what they've done here stands alone. Skulking mood

pieces segue into space-age, tech-assisted metallic freak-outs that somersault the lucky listener through a looping rollercoaster. These six nutters cackle as they fuck with the controls. Best of all, this is no tuneless twattery the material's tough, but it's on the melodic side of awesome. Their outwardly strange combination of synth soundscapes, industrial and metal brutality are beautifully aligned. It'd be easy to get this wrong, and many have. These grimy Brits, however, have infected us with one of the year's most excitingly explicit metal albums.

DOWNLOAD: *Disintegrate*.

FOR FANS OF: *Strapping Young Lad*, *The Defiled*, *Slipknot*.

STEVE BEEBEE

KATAKLYSM

OF GHOSTS AND GODS (NUCLEAR BLAST)

KK

CANUCK DEATH METALLERS CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO SHOW ANY SIGNS OF LIFE



■ DEATH METAL can be a lot of things – dripping with blood, ultra-technical, obsessed with Satan or, in some cases, full of South Park-ish comedy. What it shouldn't ever, ever be is

boring. That is exactly what Canadian deathsters *Kataklysm* are, though. They've got the odd decent riff, but everything's done so clinically and cleanly – with drums that feel more like a metronomic typewriter than someone blasting for Satan – that you just can't summon up any enthusiasm to bang your head to it. In a time when the underground is swelling with bands making death metal that's vibrant, interesting and full of the power and force that music with antisocial volume as one of its cornerstones should be, *Of Ghosts And Gods* is an inexcusably moribund affair.

DOWNLOAD: *Soul Destroyer*.

FOR FANS OF: *Decapitated*, *Behemoth*.

NICK RUSKELL



WAY BACK in the day, Metal Blade label head Brian Slagel was the first person to give a scruffy bunch of no-marks called *Metallica* their first break, including them on his legendary *Metal Massacre* comp in 1982. Thirty-three years later, Metal Blade is continuing as one of metal's most reliable powerhouse labels. And their latest output is just

as metal thrashing mad as *Hefield* and co. Just heavier, in the case of *CATTLE DECAPITATION* and their *THE ANTHROPOCENE EXTINCTION*





1 BMTH – THRONE

Another new one from Bring Me's forthcoming album, *That's The Spirit*. And, as of this Wednesday, there's only 44 sleeps 'til it's out!

2 THE SWORD – HIGH COUNTRY

That's a big new riff from the Metallica-approved stoner rock titans. You may need two air guitars for this.

3 GRAVE PLEASURES – CRYING WOLVES

The Artists Formerly Known As Beastmilk are back! And they've headed even further down the dark, romantic rabbit hole.

4 BITERS – RESTLESS HEARTS

The Atlanta rock'n'roll greaseballs rock around their hometown in this killer new video.

5 WE ARE THE OCEAN – GOOD FOR YOU

WATO have made a video themed around a bank raid. Good for them.

IMMORTAL BIRD

EMPRESS/ABSCISS (BROKEN LIMBS)

KKKK

DEBUT FULL-LENGTH FROM CHICAGO'S MOST INTENSE BAND



■ IN 2013, Immortal Bird delivered one of the most unsettlingly loud blasts of noise in recent memory with their *Akrasia* EP. Good news: they've done it again here with

their debut full-length. Their ability to sound completely septic remains staggering. At times they recall the speed and quaking heaviness of Converge on *Neoplastic*, at others they switch and fall victim to some black metal frostbite on *To A Watery Grave*. It's a minor miracle anything can even be heard over this racket, but vocalist Rae Amitay pulls it off perfectly, delivering a burned-out scream you'd only expect to hear well into the 20th hour of dental surgery sans anaesthetic. That's the real beauty of Immortal Bird: they just sound so goddamn ugly.

DOWNLOAD: *To A Watery Grave*.

FOR FANS OF: Converge, Will Haven.

GEORGE GARNER



BEATS MISPLACED (COMMUNICATING VESSELS)

KKK

SLASH SLASH, KILLER NEW PUNK SOUND FROM BRIT NOISENIKS, SLASH SLASH



■ LIKE THAT bastard-awkward name \IGT// have got going on there? It's an abbreviation of Get Tryin', so we're not sure which one we actually think is better:

Fortunately, \IGT// are way better at coming up with music than they are band names. An at times bizarre bag of languid grooves, annoying timings, knowingly can't-be-arsed vocals and jagged edges, *Beats Misplaced* swells and bursts with off-key energy that'll drive some people insane and make other, more musically masochistic folk fall in love. The enjoyment level is entirely dependent on how much you like music that feels like it's trying to slowly smother you, but you could do worse than to get tryin'.

DOWNLOAD: *Beats Misplaced*.

FOR FANS OF: The Afghan Whigs, Sonic Youth, Biffy Clyro.

NICK RUSSELL



(KKKKK). Imagine Kill 'Em All played at twice the speed, with 666 references to the Devil per track, and you've got this dirty, filth-encrusted bit of evil thrash

nailed. More shiny, but no less metal, is *Battlecross Rise to Power* (KKK).

Muscular, melodic and with fluid riffs aplenty, it's as epic as its cover, which looks like a deleted scene from 300. It's yet another fine addition to the catalogue of a label that not only started a metal movement, but, three decades on, is doing an excellent job of keeping it going.

Fightstar

GRAND UNIFICATION

(ISLAND, 2006)

HOW AN EX-BOYBAND MEMBER CAUGHT THE ROCK WORLD'S ATTENTION. USING CARCASS' AMPS...



HAVING STAKED their claim as a band to be taken seriously – rather than eyed with suspicion for being the new thing from Charlie 'That Bloke From Busted' Simpson – with 2005's *They Liked You Better When You Were Dead* EP, *Grand Unification* was Fightstar's make-or-break moment. Presenting the rock world with a brace of songs rich with sonic muscle, and heartfelt emotion, and united by a grand, apocalyptic concept, the album firmly slammed the door on the stigma that clung to Charlie. Catchy, rugged anthems like *Paint Your Target* and *Build An Army* stand alongside the more melancholy *Mono* and bouncy *Open Your Eyes*, and through crunchy riffs and soaring choruses they stamped their identity compellingly onto every track. Now, having split and re-formed, Fightstar are back with a new album in October. So, what better time to take a look back to where it all started?

YOU HAD A LOT TO PROVE WITH THIS RECORD. WERE YOU FEELING THE PRESSURE?

CHARLIE SIMPSON (VOCALS/GUITAR):

"Yeah, I was feeling a lot of pressure.

We made the EP in our spare time, and suddenly we started writing for the record and working in these big studios with [Machine Head producer] Colin Richardson, and we realised the gravity of it. Colin got to know me and what I was about, and he realised that this record was a seminal moment in my life, which was going to define who I was as a musician, and he wanted to help make that happen."



YOU USED AMPS PREVIOUSLY USED BY CARCASS AND ARCH ENEMY. WAS THE METAL GEAR A GOOD WAY OF SAYING, 'THIS AIN'T BUSTED'?

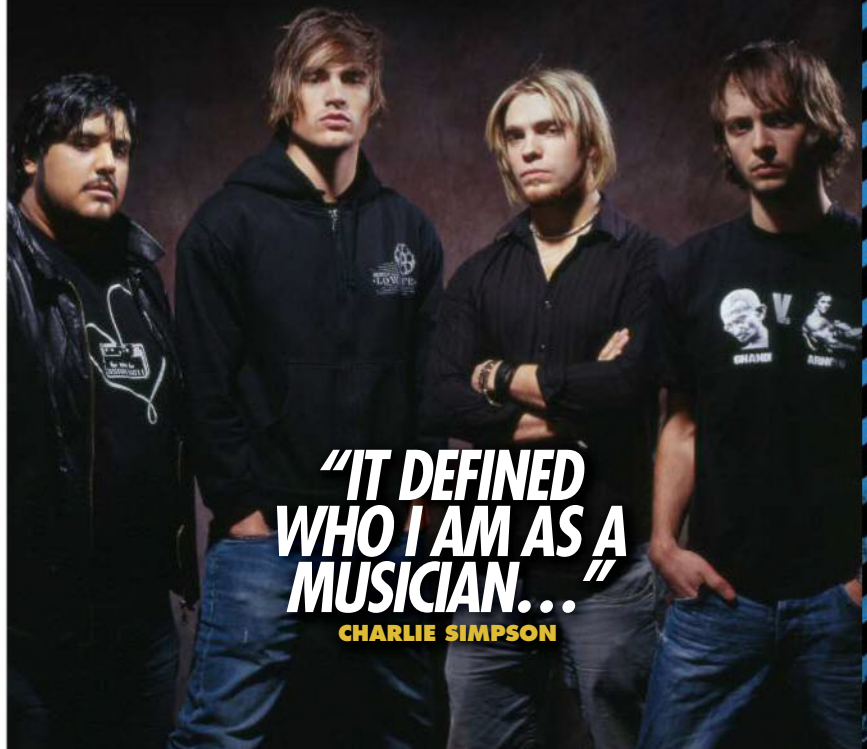
"Yeah, and the amp I was using I think belonged to W.A.S.P.! One of the reasons we wanted to work with Colin Richardson is because the [Machine Head album] *Burn My Eyes* guitar sound is the best guitar sound ever recorded. I asked him how he did that and he showed me, and I was like, 'I've got the chalice of wisdom!'"

WHAT MOST STANDS OUT IN YOUR MEMORY FROM RECORDING IT?

"I wrote *Build An Army* late in the process. We had used the drum room at The Chapel in Lincolnshire, but at that point we had moved down to London to work, and there was nowhere to track drums, so we had to feed cables from the studio through to this garage. The head of the studio was like, 'What are you guys doing?!' We were making so much racket, and it actually ended up being one of the best drum sounds of the album!"

HOW BIG A GAME-CHANGER WAS THAT RECORD FOR YOU?

"It was do or die. If that record hadn't connected with people, Fightstar would have been finished, within days probably. It's definitely some of my favourite work we've ever done, too. It was a very special time for me, and making it was a very liberating experience. I'll always be proud of it, and the songs really stand up now, which is something that means a lot to any musician."



"IT DEFINED WHO I AM AS A MUSICIAN..."

CHARLIE SIMPSON

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

WORDS: NICK RUSSELL

(KKKKK) album. See that cover? A person rotting, with loads of drugs and non-biodegradable plastic waste falling out of them. The brutal death metal contained within isn't much nicer, a savage blow to basically anyone who's ever dared draw breath. Keeping the Metallica edge going, there's *SATAN'S WRATH* with *DIE EVIL*

K! LOBBER

MUST HAVES

ALL THE BEST GEAR FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF PLANET ROCK AND BEYOND!



You know what's missing from Despicable Me? New Grave. So, kudos to the Minions for grasping the nettle and sorting that little doozy out. Although they'd probably call it Boo Brayb or something equally cute/stupid.

[£13.50 Plastichead.com](#)



Would you want Ted as your lawyer? He's a rude, obnoxious loud-mouth. Frankly, he seems overqualified.

[£20 Plastichead.com](#)



If infamous occultist Aleister Crowley were alive, he'd be a Panic! fan. This shirt's for him.

[£13.50 Plastichead.com](#)



Want breath like a Stormtrooper? Try these mints. Offer one to Lord Vader if you see him. Yeesh...

[£2.99 Forbiddenplanet.com](#)



Pac-Man and Ghostbusters is the best mash-up since potatoes. Even if this shirt is so very, very sad.

[\\$25 \(£16\) Threadless.com](#)



LOL. Thing is, this phone case says 'Generic Band Poster', but you all want one, don't you?

[\\$29 \(£18\) Threadless.com](#)



It's always been something we've felt was missing from merch – making the wearer look like they're in the middle of keyhole surgery. Either that, or you're actually the doorway to a netherworld, accessed by unlocking this shirt.

[£14.99 Grindstore.com](#)



Look at that pattern. Dream catcher? Or nuclear fission reactor? We hope it's the latter.

[£15.99 Grindstore.com](#)



Either Billie Joe's got a tongue ulcer there, or he's listening to the new Meghan Trainor single. Tell us, BJ...

[£9.90 Etsy.com](#)



Wear this triangle-tastic shirt and mark yourself out as a member of The Illuminati. Possibly.

[£14.99 Grindstore.com](#)



Sonic The Hedgehog games were killer. But none were as hard at this 3D puzzle. Stupid, spiky git.

[£7.99 Findmeagift.co.uk](#)



This BMTH shirt may get you mistaken for a flag and hung on a pole, but you'll look cool, at least.

[£15.99 Grindstore.com](#)



That was Leatherface's problem, see. Not enough hugs. Stop the chainsaw massacre of the future – give a hug today.

[\\$25 \(£16\) Threadless.com](#)



If Disney princesses are your bag, this is the bag for you. Turns into a pumpkin at midnight. Maybe.

£35 Vans.co.uk



"What's that say on your shirt, dearie?" Fskullck. Obvs. Duh. How about learning to read, yeah?

£13.50 Plastichead.com



Do cats like Nirvana? Maybe, but they probably prefer what Dave Groul did afterwards...

£9.95 Etsy.com



Linkin Park aren't doing any UK festivals this summer. This will still keep you warm, though. It's not magic.

£31 Plastichead.com



We're not sure if being a Bobble-Head would help or hinder Ant-Man in his fight against the bad guys. On the one hand, it'd help dodge punches. On the other, possible motion sickness. Fun to play with, though.

£11.99 Forbiddenplanet.com



Why exactly would you want an embroidery of an obscure Simpsons scene? Real fans don't have to ask...

£25 Etsy.com



Dreadful spelling, just dreadful. If only they'd gone to schoo... OH, WE SEE WHAT YOU DID THERE!

£25 Dropdead.co

ROCK THE BEACH!

SUMMER'S HERE, SO GET DOWN THE BEACH. NOW! AND TAKE ALL THIS KILLER STUFF WITH YOU...

'Dry it up, dryyyy iiiiit uuup! Woah-oah-oh!' Of course Kiss have their own beach towels. It's Kiss. So, now you can dry your arse on your favourite member's face after a dip in the sea. Who will you choose?

\$22.95 (£14.81) Amazon.com

Flip-flops make everyone look like a dickhead, right? WRONG! These Vans slip-ons are impervious to such things. Even if you wear them with an old pair of grey socks. Although you shouldn't do that.

£15 Vans.co.uk

You don't need to wear a school uniform to show off your love of AC/DC on the beach. Well, you can do that, but these shorts are way better. They're not a school uniform, for one thing.

£29 Amazon.co.uk



If you fancy turning yourself into shark bait, become a surfer. But that's a hard skill. Start boogie boarding, and become Jaws' lunch with half the effort. That's working smart, that is.

£64.94 Boardshop.co.uk

We know what all your mates love – getting a surprise soaking. Don't disappoint them, wait 'til they're doing something dry, and drench them with this. You'll be the King Of Funntown.

£24 Fishpond.co.uk

We won't promise this 'Tallica lunchbox will keep sand out of your sandwiches, because sand is a bastard and is unstoppable in its desire to ruin your lunch.

Still, 'Tallica lunchbox. \$9.99 (£6.45) Metallica.com

GIGS

WIN!

MISFITS SWAG

Fancy winning a pair of Misfits glow-in-the-dark creepers, a jumper and tickets to see them play in London? Then just email your contact details to feedback@kerrang.com, with 'Gimme Misfits Swag' in the header, and you might get lucky.



DON'T MISS

MISFITS

SINCE JURASSIC WORLD HAS PROBABLY CLOSED DOWN NOW, JERRY ONLY AND CO ARE BRINGING THE DINOSAUR EXPERIENCE TO YOU...



WELCOME BACK TO THE UK! WHAT SHOULD SOMEONE ATTENDING THEIR FIRST MISFITS SHOW EXPECT?

JERRY ONLY (VOCALS/BASS): "They're going to get a full-on, flat-out set. We do about 50 songs in around 25 minutes, so it's wall-to-wall with songs we love to play. We have a great line-up right now! My son's in the band and he's a great guitarist, and though we don't fuck with the formula, this is really something of a rebirth. We're coming up on our 40th anniversary, and it's like bringing back the dinosaurs, and they're hungry! It's going to be the gig equivalent of Jurassic World (laughs)!"

GYROSPHERES OR WE'RE NOT COMING! NOW, IF YOU HAD TO HAZARD A GUESS, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU PLAYED MOMMY, CAN I GO OUT AND KILL TONIGHT??

"Not as many times as I've played Skulls (laughs)! I would say Misfits have played four or five thousand shows, and we play that one probably every night, so the number's going to be way up there! I still like every song that we have, and when my son joined the band I decided that I wanted us to be able to play all 140 of the songs we have in our catalogue, so I could be up onstage and yell out, 'What do you want to hear?' And some little kid will yell back something we never really play, and I'll be like, 'Okay, here you go!'"

WHEN TRAVELLING, HAVE CUSTOMS AGENTS EVER OPENED YOUR BAGS TO SEE YOUR CRAZY SPIKED SHOULDER PADS AND WONDERED WHAT THE HELL THEY HAD STUMBLED ACROSS?

"Yeah, and it's definitely kind of funny when that happens, but we went one better and nearly got ourselves in all kinds of trouble. We made these spikes to put on [former drummer]

"WE'RE THE GIG EQUIVALENT OF JURASSIC WORLD!"

JERRY ONLY

Robo's drums, and these things were about 12 inches in diameter and they weighed something like 30 pounds apiece. When we went to Japan, they were in a plastic case, and when it went through the X-ray machine they looked like missile warheads (laughs)! They thought we were smuggling a nuclear weapon! We were more than happy for them to open the case up to prove them wrong."

WHO'S THE MOST UNEXPECTED MISFITS FAN YOU'VE MET OVER THE YEARS?

"A buddy of mine was working a Foo Fighters

show, and we were allowed to go down in the photographers pit right in front of the stage. I was stood there, and there's an older guy standing next to me, and he looked like Magneto from the X-Men, so I turn to him and say, 'Are you an X-Man? You look just like Magneto!' and he smiles and says, 'No, I'm just here with my son.' I say, 'Cool,' since I have my son with me, too, and I introduce them, and I say, 'Who's your son?' He smiles at me and says, 'Dave, who's up onstage singing his heart out fronting Foo Fighters...' He was Mr Groh!! When I told him who I am and what I do, he knew the band and said, 'Yeah, I actually really like you guys,' and I turned to him and said, 'Cool, I never expected Magneto would be a fan of my band (laughs)!"

FROM SUPERHEROES, TO WRESTLING... YOU DID A BRIEF STINT IN WCW - WHAT WAS THE BEST MOVE YOUR FOES WERE SUBJECTED TO?

"My best move was getting slammed on my head (laughs)! I kinda got thrown into wrestling, it was supposed to be about music but I ended up suddenly on the other side of things for one match, and I have to say I really enjoyed the way you would shit your pants right before you went out there (laughs)!"

DATES: London O2 Academy Islington August 1, Manchester Club Academy 2, Bristol Motion 4, Southampton Engine Rooms 5. Support: Creeper.

YOUR WEEK!



Young Guns

KERRANG! DAY JULY 29

BIRMINGHAM Altered Sky (Rainbow)
HARLOW British Lion, The Raven Age (Square)
LIVERPOOL Blues Pills (O2 Academy 2 Liverpool)
PRESTON This Is Turn, Meta-stasis (Mamothfest Tour @ Adelphi)
SHEFFIELD Soulfly (Corporation)
SOUTHEND Less Than Jake (Chinnery's)

THURSDAY JULY 30

BLACKPOOL This Is Turn (Mamothfest Tour @ Old Bridge)
BRISTOL British Lion, The Raven Age (Bierkeller)
DUBLIN Mordred (Fibber Magees)
LONDON Altered Sky (Upstairs @ Garage, Highbury)

RIDER OF THE WEEK

BAND: Enter Shikari

Got the St Albans quartet coming over for tea? Then don't be going to Tesco. You wanna get yourself down the farm to pick up some local produce...

ENTER SHIKARI

Selection of fruit
 One loaf of brown bread
 One loaf of white bread
 Three French sticks
 Spreadable butter
 Peanut butter
 Organic sliced meats
 Vegetarian meat substitutes for sandwiches (Quorn etc.)
 Tuna mayo mix and egg mayo mix (sandwich fillers)
 Crisps
 Cheese board (at least two of your local varieties)
 Local salad e.g. tomatoes, cucumber, salad leaves
 Couple of avocados
 Small jar of mayonnaise
 Bottle of very hot pepper sauce (Encona etc.)
 Small selection of chocolate bars
 6 bottles of premium cider
 48 premium lagers, ideally of your local brew (please, not Bud or Carling, you have far better local beer)
 6 cans of Coke
 6 cans of Diet Coke
 6 cans of Sprite
 6 cans of Red Bull
 48 bottles of still water
 1 bottle of vodka, or your local home town spirit
 1 bottle of Captain Morgan's Spiced Rum
 11 fruit smoothies
 11 fresh orange juices
 11 semi-skimmed milks
 11 soya milk cups
 Plates, cutlery and a bread knife
 Coffee, tea bags and green tea
 Small pack of sugar and small jar of honey

NORWICH Cabin Boy Jumped Ship, Saint [The] Sinner (Owl Sanctuary)
READING Less Than Jake (Sub89)
STOKE Soulfly (Sugarmill)

FRIDAY JULY 31

BELFAST Blues Pills (Limelight 2)
CARDIFF British Lion, The Raven Age (University)
DERBYSHIRE Less Than Jake, Young Guns, Slaves, Pulled Apart By Horses, Tellison, Brawlers, The Xcerts, Woahnows (Pikehall @ Y Not? Festival)
LONDON Mordred, Seething Akira (O2 Academy Islington)
NOTTINGHAM Altered Sky (Red Rooms)
SUNDERLAND This Is Turn (Mamothfest Tour @ Upbrawl)

SATURDAY AUGUST 1

ABERDEEN Mordred, Seething Akira (Downstairs)
BIRMINGHAM Phoenix Calling (O2 Academy Birmingham)
COVENTRY Less Than Jake (Kasbah)
DERBYSHIRE Don Broco, Hacktivist, Fearless Vampire Killers, Allusondrugs (Pikehall @ Y Not? Festival)
GLASGOW Meta-stasis (Audio)
GLASGOW Altered Sky (Garage II)
LONDON The Smith Street Band, Muncie Girls, Shit Present (Lexington)
LONDON Misfits, Creeper (O2 Academy Islington)
MANCHESTER ArnoCorps (Star & Garter)
STOKE This Is Turn, Martyr Defiled (Rawkus Fest @ Bunker 13)

SUNDAY AUGUST 2

BIRMINGHAM British Lion, The Raven Age (Rainbow Warehouse)
DERBYSHIRE We Are The Ocean, Rolo Tomassi, ZOAX (Pikehall @ Y Not? Festival)
DUBLIN ArnoCorps (Voodoo Lounge)
GLASGOW Mordred, Seething Akira (Audio)
MANCHESTER Misfits, Creeper (Club Academy)
MANCHESTER Altered Sky (Factory)
MANCHESTER The Smith Street Band, Muncie Girls, Shit Present (Gullivers)
PENRITH Less Than Jake (Kendall Calling)
SHEFFIELD Cabin Boy Jumped Ship, Saint [The] Sinner (South Sea Live)

MONDAY AUGUST 3

BELFAST ArnoCorps (Bar Sub!)
EDINBURGH Mordred, Seething Akira (Bannerman's Bar)
HIGH WYCOMBE Cabin Boy Jumped Ship, Saint [The] Sinner (Phoenix)
MANCHESTER Bad Religion, Snuff (Ritz)

TUESDAY AUGUST 4

BRISTOL Misfits, Creeper (Motion)
CHESTER British Lion, The Raven Age (Live Rooms)
GLASGOW ArnoCorps (Audio)
LEEDS Bad Religion, Snuff (O2 Academy Leeds)
NEWCASTLE Cabin Boy Jumped Ship, Saint [The] Sinner (Think Tank?)
WAKEFIELD Mordred, Seething Akira (Warehouse 23)
WOLVERHAMPTON Death Angel (Slade Rooms)
YORK Less Than Jake (Fibbers)

CAN'T GET TO A GIG?

THEN HERE'S SOME OTHER STUFF TO KEEP YOUR EYES/EARS BUSY



AMERICAN IDIOT: THE MUSICAL

LONDON'S ARTS THEATRE (UNTIL SEPT 27)
 We saw the U.S. cast bring Green Day's legendary album to life back in 2012, and now the Brits are giving it a shot. You might recognise leading lady Amelia Lily from X Factor. Tickets from £15!



ASKING ALEXANDRIA LIVE AT GRASPOP FESTIVAL

YOUTUBE
 Enjoyed this week's cover feature, but can't wait 'til October to see Asking Alexandria play with new frontman Denis Stoff? Then you're almost as lucky as the frontman himself, since AA's full set from Belgium's Graspop festival in June is on the 'Tubez. Spoiler: he's reeeeeeeally good.



IRON MAIDEN: ROCK IN RIO

SKY ARTS, ON DEMAND
 Want to see Maiden dicking about, throwing chairs through glass tables, and launching mangoes from high-rise hotel balconies? Then turn on Sky and demand this documentary gets in your eyes/ears immediately. They also play a rad concert to just a couple of people, in Rio, if you couldn't guess.

MY FIRST GIG

WHO: **SNAPCASE, UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO ALUMNI HALL, '90S**

THIS SINGER HAD A GREAT TIME AT HIS FIRST HARDCORE SCENE AUDITION, SORRY, WE MEAN GIG...



KEITH BUCKLEY, EVERY TIME I DIE

"I think the reason that I was actually allowed to attend this gig was because my father was a professor at the university they

played and he was aware of their rules and regulations.

"I went with the 'crew' of straight-edge skateboarders I'd been initiated into when I got to high school. For the most part they were a bunch of miscreants, but they had that charm they could turn on when parents were around in order to gain their trust. I honestly don't know why they even liked me - I wasn't a troublemaker, I did really well in school and I listened to rap.

"I was scared to death beforehand! Not because I feared for my life, but because, at that point, hardcore shows were like auditions. You had to make an impression on the scenesters if you ever expected to be accepted in that community. With it being a Snapcase show, everyone in Buffalo was there - the

vegans, the punks, the tweakers, even some jocks. I was like a rookie playing the Super Bowl!

"I know Snapcase played Incarnation because I vividly remember the entire place going apeshit when that first guitar lick was ripped. It was like a bomb went off. Backpacks full of zines just flying around like graduation caps. Krishna beads *bursting* off straight-edgers' necks. It was sheer insanity!

"I climbed on someone's back and actually had the mic handed to me by their singer, Daryl [Taberski]. If that wasn't cool enough, someone had taken a picture of that exact moment and it was published in the university paper in their show review. That was essential for getting the scene approval I desired so badly.

"I didn't buy anything at merch, but later I would find out they had some merchandise at an independent record store downtown. Going there was another life-changing event, but that's for a different time. I bought a Snapcase hoodie and wore it every day for four years. I'm wearing it in my 10th grade yearbook pic!"



GENERAL ADMISSION



CAMBRIDGE

WE KNOW IT'S FULL OF SMART PEOPLE, BUT HOW'S CAMBRIDGE ON THE MUSIC FRONT?



MIKEY CHAPMAN, MALLORY KNOX

WHAT WAS IT LIKE BEING A NEW BAND COMING UP IN CAMBRIDGE?

"Cambridge was always quite a difficult scene for us. We started out as a pop-punk band, then developed and became the Mallory that you hear today. It was always difficult to get support. We had quite a strong indie scene when we were younger and the pop-punk scene was really fighting for a place, but the fans weren't there. Not to say there aren't fans in Cambridge, there are still people I run into that have been seeing me play since 2007! But a large community of music fans that would attend shows on a regular basis wasn't necessarily apparent."

IS THAT CHANGING NOW THAT YOU AND LONELY THE BRAVE ARE FINDING SUCCESS?

"Yeah. It's a similar thing to what I used to have with Hertfordshire when **Enter Shikari** were on their way up, it created a buzz about that area and we were always so excited to head over there and play. I'd be honoured to think that ourselves, **Lonely The Brave** and **The Treatment** have a done a little something to help that. I went to see **We Are The Ocean** play **The Portland Arms (1)** recently and it was rammed. I was so happy to see that, because five years ago that would have been a real struggle."

WHAT ARE THE KEY VENUES TO PLAY AS A NEW BAND?

"**The Portland Arms** is absolutely one of them. Our first-ever proper show was there and they were always so supportive. They allowed us to hone ourselves to the



Lonely The Brave: they're from Cambridge, too

point where we could try and crack the national scene. And the 'fiver' nights at **The Junction (2)** are great – it costs a fiver and they have five young bands on."

WHAT ABOUT BIGGER PLACES?

"**The Corn Exchange (3)** is the big venue. There's always the chance that bigger bands will come through and pick up local supports. The prospect of seeing some of our buddies onstage, before bands we used to idolise, was always very exciting. We never actually got to do it ourselves, but it's still a real dream of ours to headline."

IS THERE ANY LOCAL MEDIA THAT SUPPORTS NEW BANDS?

"There's a rock show on [local radio station] **Star Radio**. For us to head into Cambridge and sit down at a radio station and do interviews was a really daunting but exciting prospect, and they gave us that opportunity. The presenter, **Neil Jones**, has a fantastic knowledge of the music industry, he's really passionate about it and he's one of the main

folks that are really trying to get Cambridge on its feet. We need more people like that. I advise anybody that lives in Cambridge and has a real heart for music to get involved – let's turn Cambridge into something special."



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ACCEPT

London Kentish Town Forum December 7.

AGAINST THE CURRENT

London O2 Academy Islington October 7, Glasgow King Tut's 8, Birmingham Asylum 9, Manchester Club Academy 10, Southampton Joiners 11, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 12.

ALL TIME LOW

Edinburgh Corn Exchange August 25, Support: Neck Deep.

ASKING ALEXANDRIA

O2 Academy Leicester October 20, O2 Academy Newcastle 21, Lincoln Engine Shed 22, O2 Academy Sheffield 27, Manchester Ritz 28, Support: Memphis May Fire, August Burns Red, In Hearts Wake.

ATREYU

Colchester Arts Centre August 27, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 28.

BAD RELIGION

Manchester Ritz August 3, O2 Academy Leeds 4, Birmingham Institute 5, O2 Academy Bristol 7, London Kentish Town Forum 8, Support: Snuff.

BLACKBERRY SMOKE

O2 Academy Birmingham November 3, O2 Academy Sheffield 4, O2 Academy Newcastle 5, Manchester Academy 6, London Kentish Town Forum 8.

BLACK STONE CHERRY

Cardiff Motorpoint Arena January 28, 2016, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 29, Liverpool Echo Arena 30, Glasgow SSE Hydro February 1, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 2, London SSE Arena Wembley 4, Leeds First Direct Arena 4, Manchester Arena 6, Support: Shinedown, Halestorm, Highly Suspect.

BUTZ KIDS

Manchester Academy III October 9, London Tufnell Park Dome 10.

BLOODSTOCK OPEN AIR

Line-up: Black Label Society, Napalm Death, Wolf, Trivium, Rob Zombie, Within Temptation, Opeth, Ihsahn, Cannibal Corpse, Sepultura, Death DTA, Dark Angel, Nuclear Assault, Orange Goblin, 1349, Armored Saint, Overkill, Enslavement, Belphegor, Sabaton, Agalloch, Enslaved, Korpiklaani, Pro-pain, Delain, Fleshgod Apocalypse, Battalion, Mordred, Destrage, Godflesh, Conan, Bast, Planet Of Zeus, Dirty Sanchez, Pritchard vs Dainton, Ethereal, Lawnmower Deth, Oaf, Saille, Amocorp, Reign Of Fury, Metapism, Desecration, Red Rum, I Am I-Hang, The Bastard, Re-Animator, Fire Red Empress, Hexas, Jettblack, Dead Label, Ne Obliviscaris, Silas, Burgerkill, Jasad, Plst, Of Drake, Triaxis, Derbyshire Catton Park August 6–9.

BRAND NEW

Manchester Albert Hall September 10, London Alexandra Palace 11, O2 Academy Sheffield 19, Middlesbrough Empire 20, Edinburgh Usher Hall 21, Dublin Vicar Street 22.

BRITISH LION

Harlow Square July 29, Bristol Bierkeller 30, Cardiff Uni 31, Birmingham Rainbow Warehouse August 2, Chester Live Rooms 4, Lincoln Engine Shed 5, Manchester Club Academy 7, Newcastle Riverside 8, Edinburgh Studio 24 9, Aberdeen Lemon Tree 10, York: Duchess 12, Blackburn King George's Hall Windsor Suite 13, Doncaster Diamond Live Lounge 14, Grimsby Yardbirds 15, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 16, Colchester Arts Centre 18, O2 Academy 2 Oxford 20, Plymouth Hub 21, Southampton 1865 22, Poole Mr Kyps 23, Norwich Waterfront 24, London O2 Islington Academy 26, Support: The Raven Age.

BRYAN ADAMS

London Radio 2 Live In Hyde Park September 13.

BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE

Belfast Ulster Hall September 28, Dublin Olympia 29, O2 Academy Bournemouth October 1, Reading Hexagon 2, Guildford G Live 3, Aylesbury Theatre 5, Stoke Victoria Hall 6, Lincoln Engine Shed 7, York Barbican 9, Aberdeen Music Hall 10, Dunfermline Alhambra 11, Middlesbrough Empire 13, Carlisle Sands 14, O2 Academy Leicester 16, Bexhill De La Warr Pavilion 17, Folkestone Cliff Hall 18, Swansea Brangwyn Hall 20, O2 Guildhall Southampton 21, Ipswich Regent Corn Exchange 22.

CANCER BATS

London 100 Club August 27, Support: Krokodil.

CRADLE OF FILTH

Nottingham Rock City October 16, Bristol Motion 17, Norwich Waterfront 18, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 20, Glasgow Garage 21, Manchester Academy II 22,

London Camden KOKO 23.

CLUTCH

Dublin Olympia Theatre November 20, Belfast Limeright 21, O2 Academy Glasgow 23, Nottingham Rock City 24, O2 Academy Bristol 25, Manchester Ritz December 10, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 11, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 12.

DAMNATION FESTIVAL

Line-up: At The Gates, Leeds University Union November 7.

THE DARKNESS

Cambridge Corn Exchange December 1, Nottingham Rock City 2, O2 Academy Newcastle 4, O2 Academy Glasgow 5, O2 Academy Leeds 9, Manchester Academy 10, O2 Academy Birmingham 11, O2 Academy Bristol 13, O2 Guildhall Southampton 14, Bexhill De La Warr Pavilion 15, O2 Academy Bournemouth 17, O2 Academy Oxford 19, London Camden Roundhouse 20.

DEF LEPPARD / WHITESNAKE

Dublin 3 Arena December 6, Belfast Odyssey 7, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 9, Glasgow SSE Hydro 10, Birmingham Genting Arena 12, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 13, Manchester Arena 15, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 16, London SSE Arena Wembley 18, Sheffield Motorpoint Arena 19, Support: Black Star Riders.

DEFTONES

London SSE Arena Wembley November 21, Support: Architects.

DELAIN

Bristol Marble Factory October 22, Birmingham Institute Library 23, Manchester Academy II 24, London O2 Academy Islington 25, Support: Anneke van Giersbergen, The Gentle Storm.

DON BROCO

Bedford Esquires August 6, London Hoxton Bar & Kitchen 7, Colchester Arts Centre 9, Stoke Sugarmill 10, York: Duchess 11, Birmingham Temple 12, Glasgow King Tut's 14, London O2 Academy Brixton December 13.

ENTER SHIKARI

O2 Academy Glasgow February 18, 2016, Edinburgh Corn Exchange 19, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 20, Bournemouth BIC 22, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 23, Manchester Victoria Warehouse 25, London Alexandra Palace 27, Support: The Wonder Years.

EVERY TIME I DIE

Southampton Talking Heads November 6, Plymouth Underground 7, Bristol Fleece 8, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 9, Manchester Sound Control 11, Glasgow King Tut's 12, Aberdeen Tunnels 13, Newcastle Riverside 14, Sheffield Corporation 15, Birmingham Asylum 17, London Tufnell Park Dome 18, London Borderline 19, London Camden Underworld 20, Support: Superheaven, Muck.

THE FALL OF TROY

O2 Academy 2 Liverpool August 16, O2 Academy 2 Newcastle 17, Edinburgh Studio 24 18, London Camden Electric Ballroom 19, Manchester Gorilla 20, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 22, Support: Rolo Tornasi.

FALL OUT BOY

Leeds First Direct Arena October 3, Aberdeen AECC GE Oil & Gas Arena 4, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 6, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 7, Manchester Arena 9, Bournemouth International Centre 10, London SSE Arena Wembley 11–12.

FEAR FACTORY

Bristol Motion December 7, Manchester Ritz 9, Dublin Academy 10, Belfast Limeright 11, Glasgow Garage 12, London Kentish Town Forum 13.

FIGHTSTAR

London Troxy October 17, Southampton University 18, Exeter Lemongrove 19, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 21, Norwich Waterfront 22, Manchester Ritz 24, Newcastle Northumbria Uni 25, Edinburgh Liquid Rooms 27, Aberdeen Garage 28.

FOO FIGHTERS

Milton Keynes Bowl September 5–6, Edinburgh BT Murrayfield Stadium 8, Support: Iggy Pop (Milton Keynes), Royal Blood (Edinburgh).

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES

London Borderline August 18.

FRANK TURNER & THE SLEEPING SOULS

Llandudno Venue Cymru November 5, O2 Guildhall Southampton 8, Falmouth Princess Pavilion 9, Glasgow Barrowland 13, Newcastle Uni 14, Nottingham Rock City 15, O2 Academy Birmingham 18, O2 Academy Sheffield 19, Bristol Colston Hall 21, Manchester Academy 23, London Alexandra Palace 26.

THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM

London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire August 29. Support: Against Me!

GHOSTFEST

Line up: Hatebreed, Despised Icon, Turnstile, Rise Of The Northstar, Nasty, Astroid Boys, Make Them Suffer, Slaughter To Prevail, Venom Prison, Emmure, Oceano, Angel Du\$t, Oathbreaker, Desolated, Broken Teeth, Casey, Born Of Osiris, Martyr, Defiled, The Eyes Of A Traitor, Seafoal, Jonny Craig, Continents. Leeds University September 5, Bristol Motion 6.

GNARWOLVES

Birmingham Rainbow Warehouse December 9, Manchester Sound Control 10, Leeds Key Club 11, Glasgow Audio 12, Sheffield Local Authority 13, Liverpool District 14, Nottingham Bodega 15, Bristol Exchange 16, Bournemouth Sound Circus 17, London Camden Underworld 18. Support: Spraynord, Such Gold.

HALESTORM

O2 Academy Liverpool August 17, London Camden KOKO 18.

HATEBREED

Reading Sub 89 September 4.

HEVY FESTIVAL

Line up: Coheed And Cambria, Thrice, The Dillinger Escape Plan, Monuments Vales, Grader, Up River, OH-MS, Collisions, Baby Godzilla, Black Tusk, The Colour Line, Continents, Creeper, Fathoms, Fort Hope, The Get Up Kids, Hacktivist, Touché Amoré, Wraiths, The Fall Of Troy, Judge, Ignite, A Wilhelm Scream, Teenage Bottle Rocket, Arcane Roots, Crooks, Broken Teeth, Hang The Bastard, Black Peaks, Blood Youth, Trash Boat, Youth Man, Press To Meco, Protest The Hero, As It Is, Betraying The Martyrs, Break Even, Chon, Endless Heights, God Damn, Landscapes, Milk Teeth, Protest The Hero, Stick To Your Guns, Sweet Jesus, Waster, Port Lympe, Wild Animal Park August 14-15.

INME

Manchester Sound Control September 14, Glasgow Classic Grand 15, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 16, Birmingham Warehouse 17, London O2 Academy Islington 18.

JIM ADKINS

Birmingham Glee Club September 2, Glasgow Cottiers Theatre 3, Manchester Royal Northern College Of Music 4, London Union Chapel 5.

LESS THAN JAKE

Southend Chinnery's July 29, Reading Sub89 30, Coventry Kasbah August 1, York Fibbers 4, London Brooklyn Bowl (with Anti Flag) 8, Bristol Motion 11, Southampton Engine Rooms 12, Winchester Boomtown Fair 14.

LIMP BIZKIT

London O2 Academy Brixton August 27.

MACMILLANFEST 2015

Line-up: Fearless Vampire Killers, Evil Scarecrow, Glamour Of The Kill, The One Hundred and loads more! Nottingham various venues September 5.

MALLORY KNOX

Rugby Village September 24. Support: We Are The Ocean, Go Primitive. O2 Academy Glasgow September 28, Manchester Ritz 29, Cambridge Junction 30, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall October 2, Middlesbrough Empire 3, Cardiff Pias 4, Exeter Lemon Grove 6, Nottingham Rock Circus 7, Norwich UEA 8, London Camden Roundhouse 9. Support: Set It Off, The Xcerts.

MARILYN MANSON

London Eventim Apollo November 19, Wolverhampton Civic Hall 21, O2 Academy Glasgow 22, O2 Apollo Manchester 23. Support: Krokodil.

MEGADETH / LAMB OF GOD

Glasgow Braehead Arena November 11, O2 Apollo Manchester 12, London SSE Arena Wembley 14, O2 Academy Birmingham 15. Support: Children Of Bodom, Sylös.

MISFITS

London O2 Academy Islington August 1, Manchester Club Academy 2, Bristol Motion 4, Southampton Engine Rooms 5. Support: Creeper.

MOOSE BLOOD

Tunbridge Wells Forum August 27, Chester Live Rooms September 1, Norwich Owl Sanctuary 2, Bournemouth Sound Circus 4, Plymouth Underground 5, Swansea Scene 6, Coventry Kasbah 7, Carlisle Brickyard 8. Support: Creeper.

MÖTLEY CRÜE

Newcastle Metro Radio Arena November 2, Manchester Arena 3, Birmingham Genting Arena 4, London SSE Arena Wembley 6. Support: Alice Cooper.

NICKELBACK

Sheffield Motorpoint Arena November 13, Glasgow SSE Hydro 14, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 16, Manchester Arena 17, Liverpool Echo Arena 19, Birmingham Genting

JUST ANNOUNCED

CITIZEN

Leeds Brudenell Social Club January 28, Glasgow Classic Grand 29, London Tufnell Park Dome 30.

ENFORCER

Nuneaton Queens Hall October 8, Dublin Voodoo Lounge 9, Belfast Limelight II 10, Glasgow Audio 11, Chester Live Rooms 12, London Underworld 13. Support: Dynamite.

EVIL BLIZZARD

London 100 Club August 29, Shropshire Unorthodox Paradox Festival September 12, Liverpool Psych Festival 26, Butlins Skegness Great British Alternative Weekend October 10, Leicester Donkey Bar 15, Stockton Georgian Theatre 24, Derby Hairy Dog 30, Preston Blitz 31, Hebden Bridge Trades Club November 11, Birmingham Wagon & Horses 27, London Camden Barfly 28, Manchester Academy 19.

FEED THE RHINO

Chatham Tap 'N' Tin August 26.

RAGING SPEEDHORN

Cardiff Globe November 26, London Camden Underworld 27, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 28, Sheffield Corporation 29, Manchester Star & Garter 30, Bristol Exchange December 1.

THE RED PAINTINGS

Stoke Underground November 5, Manchester Sound Control 6, Glasgow Audio 7, Sheffield Corporation 8, Birmingham Rainbow 9, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 11, London Borderline 12, Barnstaple Factory 13, Bristol Exchange 14, Southampton Joiners 15.

VENNART

Nottingham Bodega Social Club November 23, London Bush Hall 24, Manchester Deaf Institute 25, Glasgow King Tut's 26, Wakefield Hop 27. Support: Knifeworld, Cleft.

CANCER BATS

Date added: Kingston Fighting Cocks August 26.

Arena 21, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 22, London SSE Arena Wembley 24. Support: Monster Truck.

NIGHTWISH

London SSE Arena Wembley December 19. Support: Arch Enemy, Amorphis.

NORTHLANE

Bristol Fleece October 4, Birmingham Asylum 5, Glasgow Classic Grand 6, Manchester Club Academy 7, London O2 Academy Islington 8, Southampton Talking Heads 9. Support: Volumes, The Acacia Strain, Hellions.

THE OFFSPRING

O2 Apollo Manchester August 25, London O2 Academy Brixton 26. Support: The Menzingers.

OPETH

London Palladium October 18.

PALM READER

Basingstoke Sanctuary September 1, Plymouth Exile 2, Derby Victoria Inn 3, Glasgow Ivory Blacks 4, Sheffield Riverside 5, Swansea Lemon Factory 6, London Surya 8.

PAPA ROACH / FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH

London Wembley SSE Arena November 28. Support: Devil You Know, Eskimo Callboy.

PARKWAY DRIVE

London O2 Academy Brixton February 12, 2016, O2 Apollo Manchester 13, O2 Academy Glasgow 14, O2 Academy Birmingham 15.

THE PRODIGY

Nottingham Capital FM Arena November 24, Newcastle Upon Tyne Metro Radio Arena 26, Manchester Central 27, Sheffield Motorpoint Arena 28, Dublin 3 Arena 30, Belfast Odyssey Arena December 1, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 3, London SSE Arena Wembley 4-5. Support: Public Enemy.

READING & LEEDS

Line up: Metalica, Pierce The Veil, Refused, Limp Bizkit, Alexisonfire, Manchester Orchestra, Royal Blood, All Time Low, American Football, Bring Me The Horizon, Neck Deep, Panic! At The Disco, Slaves, We Are The Ocean, Neko

Marmozets, Cancer Bats, Imiokero and the collaboration, Ghost, Gojira, Modern Life Is War, The Menzingers, While She Sleeps, Frank Turner, Darlia, Lonely The Brave, Radkey, Ash, Simple Plan, New Found Glory, Bury Tomorrow, The Gaslight Anthem, Against Me!, Feed The Rhino, Modestep, FIDLAR, BABYMETAL, Twin Atlantic, Nothing But Thieves, Modern Baseball, The Bots, The Smith Street Band, Atreyu, PVRIS, Black Peaks, The One Hundred, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Turbowolf, Moose Blood, Queen Kwong, Hawk Eyes, Single Mothers, As It Is, No Devotion, The Bronx, Baroness, God Damn, Mariachi El Bronx, Bo Ningen, Skinny Lister, Seether, Don Broco and more! Reading Richfield Avenue and Leeds Bramham Park August 28-30.

SABATON

Norwich UEA February 26, 2016, Manchester Academy 27, O2 Academy Birmingham 28, O2 Guildhall Southampton 29, Aberdeen Music Hall March 2, Glasgow Barrowland 3, Belfast Limelight 4, Dublin Vicar Street 6, Cardiff Tramshed 7, Bristol Motion 8. Support: Alestorm, Bloodbound.

SIKH

Glasgow Classic Grand December 5, Manchester Academy II 6, Bristol Marble Factory 10, O2 Academy 2 Birmingham 11, London Kentish Town Forum 12.

SKINDRED

O2 Guildhall Southampton November 4, Norwich UEA 5, Nottingham Rock City 6, Manchester Academy 7, O2 Academy Glasgow 10, Leeds Stylus 11, O2 Academy Bristol 12, Birmingham Institute 13, London O2 Academy Brixton 14. Support: Crossfaith, (hed)pe, Yashin.

SLAYER

Newport Centre November 21, Plymouth Pavilions 22, O2 Apollo Manchester 24, O2 Academy Glasgow 25, O2 Academy Birmingham 27, O2 Academy Leeds 28, London O2 Academy Brixton 30. Support: Anthrax, Kvelertak.

STATE CHAMPS

Belfast QUB Students' Union September 15, Dublin Academy II 16, O2 Academy 2 Liverpool 17, Birmingham Asylum 18, O2 Academy 2 Newcastle 19, Glasgow King Tut's 21, Leeds Stylus 22, Manchester Sound Control

23, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 24, London O2 Academy Islington 25, Southampton 1865 26, Kingston Hippodrome October 3. Support: Knuckle Puck, ROAM.

THE STORY SO FAR

Cardiff Pias December 1, Southampton 1865 2, Exeter Lemon Grove 3, London Camden KOKO 4, Norwich Epic 5, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 7, Birmingham Asylum 8, Manchester Academy 19, Glasgow Garage 10, Newcastle Riverside 11, Leeds Stylus 12.

THY ART IS MURDER

Manchester Sound Control August 11, London Camden Barfly 12.

TWENTY ONE PILOTS

O2 ABC Glasgow November 4, Manchester Ritz 5, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 6, O2 Academy Oxford 7, Birmingham Institute 9, London O2 Academy Brixton February 25, 2016.

VANS WARPED TOUR UK

Line-up: Asking Alexandria, Black Veil Brides, Young Guns, Reel Big Fish, Metro Station, Memphis May Fire, Anti-Flag, August Burns Red, Attila, The Word Alive, Ghost Town, Rob Lynch, Fearless Vampire Killers, Forever Came Calling, The Rocket Summer, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Trophy Eyes, ROAM, The One Hundred, In Hearts Wake, John Coffey, Twin Wild, Tigris, Boy Jumps Ship, Creeper, Allusondrugs. London Alexandra Palace October 18.

WE ARE THE OCEAN

Birmingham Asylum November 9, Cardiff Globe 10, Bristol Fleece 11, Norwich Waterfront Studio 12, Leeds Mine 13, Glasgow King Tut's 15, O2 Academy 2 Newcastle 16, Manchester Sound Control 17, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 18, London O2 Academy Islington 20.

WEDNESDAY 13

London Highbury Garage October 30-31.

THE XCERTS

London Camden Dingwalls August 26. Support: Only Rivals.

X JAPAN

London SSE Wembley Arena March 12, 2016.

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EDITORIAL

IF YOU COULD BE ANY SINGER FOR A DAY, WHO WOULD IT BE?

EDITOR: James McMahon (David Lee Roth – because it'd be a hoot)
DEPUTY EDITOR: George Garner (Eddie Vedder – HE CAN SURF)
ART EDITOR: Steve Beech (Simon Neil – I would look at myself in the mirror most of that day)
DEPUTY ART EDITOR: Laura Reid (Dallas Green – I'd sing to myself all day long)
FEATURES EDITOR: Sam Coare (Fred Durst – because Fred Durst)
PICTURE EDITOR: Scarlet Borg (Debbie Harry – she's cool as fuck)
ASSOCIATE EDITOR (REVIEWS): Nick Russell (Dave Wyndorf – so I could've written the lyric 'Cashing Satan's cheques with my dick in my hand')
NEWS/ONLINE EDITOR: John Longbottom (Courtney Love – I just wanna know)
NEW MUSIC EDITOR: Jennifer J. Walker (Patrick Stump – so I could sing FOB songs to myself all day)
ACTING PRODUCTION EDITOR: Ryan Cooper (Jared Leto – because he can do anything he wants)
DESIGNER: Sophie Bland (Joan Jett – she's a fucking legend)

DIGITAL CONTRIBUTING ED:

Emily Carter (Jason Adlon Butler – because he's the coolest)
CONTRIBUTING ED: Katie Parsons (Lynn Gunn – she's a badass)

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THANKS TO: Ali Catterall.

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DISTRIBUTION: Frontline (01733 555161)
REPRO: Rival Colour
PRINTING: Polestar

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THE ULTIMATE ROCKSTAR TEST

JOSH TODD BUCKCHERRY

HURT YOURSELF AROUND THIS FRONTMAN?
THEN DON'T EXPECT ANY SYMPATHY...



and look at my phone, but I won't do that. So, got that wrong!"

Nobody likes a cheater, dude, so good on you. Unless it's at Monopoly, because that game goes on forever

ON THE HYPOTHETICAL...

IF YOU COULD FIGHT ONE CELEBRITY, WHO WOULD IT BE?

"I don't really have any grudges against people, but I do like boxing, and I wouldn't mind boxing somebody for charity. It'd have to be somebody the same age and the same weight... That's a hard one. Maybe I'd fight [American actor] Steve Buscemi. No headgear; we'll do six rounds and give the money to charity."

A SPORTS TEAM YOU HATE OFFER YOU 20 GRAND TO USE ONE OF YOUR TRACKS FOR THEIR VICTORY SONG. DO YOU TELL THEM TO GET LOST OR TAKE IT?

"Oh, I'd take the money. Hell yeah! You know what kind of money is lost in this business now? It's a lot different than it used to be. So yes, I'd take the money."

YOU'RE OFFERED A HUGE ACTING ROLE FOR A TON OF MONEY, BUT YOU'D HAVE TO GIVE UP BUCKCHERRY FOR GOOD... WHAT DO YOU DO?

"Everybody's got a price, but there's no way. I mean, if we're looking at, like, a hundred million dollars, I would talk with the guys in Buckcherry and say, 'Hey, I'll give you each a million bucks and we can all be happy; and they'd be like, 'All right, do it,' and then we can start another band.'"

Starting a new band is against the rules. Give the acting people their money back, immediately



SPIRITUAL HEADMELTER...

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE?

"Nothing. You lay in the ground and you rot, or you're sprinkled over the ocean. People waste too much time on what's gonna happen when they die. They create all this nonsense around it... All religion causes is complete turmoil for the world. I don't believe in the afterlife. I think people are gonna be really disappointed — the people who don't live their lives when they're here, they're just waiting for what's gonna happen later."

Guess that means you don't get to hang out at our chocolate factory in the sky. Sorry, Josh

ON ROCK'N'ROLL...

WHAT'S THE WORST INJURY YOU'VE SEEN ON TOUR?

"The worst injury we sustained as a band was in Dallas. Keith [Nelson, guitar] went down to do a guitar solo on his back, pushed the guitar up to get up and it slipped and broke his nose. I went off to the side of the stage and he had blood all over him, and I was like, 'Come on, man, it looks cool, let's finish this set!' I felt like a jerk after because I didn't know how severe it was!"

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR MOST EXTRAVAGANT ROCKSTAR PURCHASE?

"I got a [Kawasaki] Ninja 600R motorbike, and that was amazing. Then I got in a lot of trouble on that with speeding tickets, so I got rid of that and got some really fast go-karts. The most I spent? Well, a new chassis and a new motor is, like, eight grand!"

WHAT'S THE MOST STUPID THING YOU'VE EVER DONE?

"When I was 16 I was dealing weed at school. I had this little Honda Civic, and me and my friend used to park up on this hill. One time we went up there and I had an ounce of weed all split up in eights underneath my seat cover. I saw something move in my rear-view mirror and it was a cop. She arrested me and my friend, then after I was sat there looking at my car and all the bags of weed were hanging out of the seat cover! She thought I'd given her everything, so she confiscated my car with all of the weed in it. It was still there [when I got the car back] (laughs)!"

We obviously don't have to say 'don't try this at home, people', but we're saying it anyway

ON YOUR OWN MUSIC...

YOU APPEARED ON ESCAPE THE FATE'S 10 MILES WIDE. BUT WHAT ALBUM IS THAT FROM?

"I have no idea! It was a while ago. I picked up the mic, said, 'Give me what you've got,' and they played me some of their new riffs, and I just scatted down some melodies, and 10 Miles Wide was born."

We're glad you picked up the mic — wouldn't have sounded too great if you'd left it on the floor

COMPLETE THE LYRIC: 'I DIDN'T DO IT FOR MONEY, I DID IT ALL FOR FREE...'

"'I did it all to fill the fucking hole inside of me!' If I got that wrong it would've been a faux pas (laughs)!"

Yep, and we'd also start wondering if you were actually the singer of Buckcherry at all

WHAT IS THE SECOND TRACK FROM YOUR DEBUT ALBUM?

"Wow! Second track... I don't know! I could cheat



"I MADE MY GUITARIST PLAY WITH A BROKEN NOSE!"

JOSH TODD

THE VERDICT

BROKEN NOSES, SPEEDING FINES AND RUN-INS WITH THE PLOD. SMELLS LIKE ROCK'N'ROLL...

SCORE

73%

THE LEADERBOARD

1	LEMMY	MOTORHEAD	99%
1	OSZY	OSBOURNE	99%
1	ROB	HALFORD	99%
4	ICE-T	BODY COUNT	97%
5	MATT	SORUM	97%
6	GENE	SIMMONS	96%
7	ALICE	COOPER	95%
8	JOE	ELLIOTT	95%
9	SATCHEL	STEEL PANTHER	92%
10	JOSH	TODD	73%

71	BOB	MOULD	64%
72	AUSTIN	CARLILE	61%
73	ALEX	GASKARTH	55%

So much groove 'Automatic' could probably raise James Brown from the dead

Rock Sound

A nighttime photograph of a poolside scene. On the left, five men are sitting on lounge chairs. In the center, a neon sign in a cursive script reads "Automatic". The sign is reflected in the pool water. Two large vases sit on the pool deck in front of the sign. In the background, two more people are standing near some palm trees. The scene is lit with warm pool lights and the vibrant pink and purple glow of the neon sign.

Automatic

don broco

AUTOMATIC

07/08/15